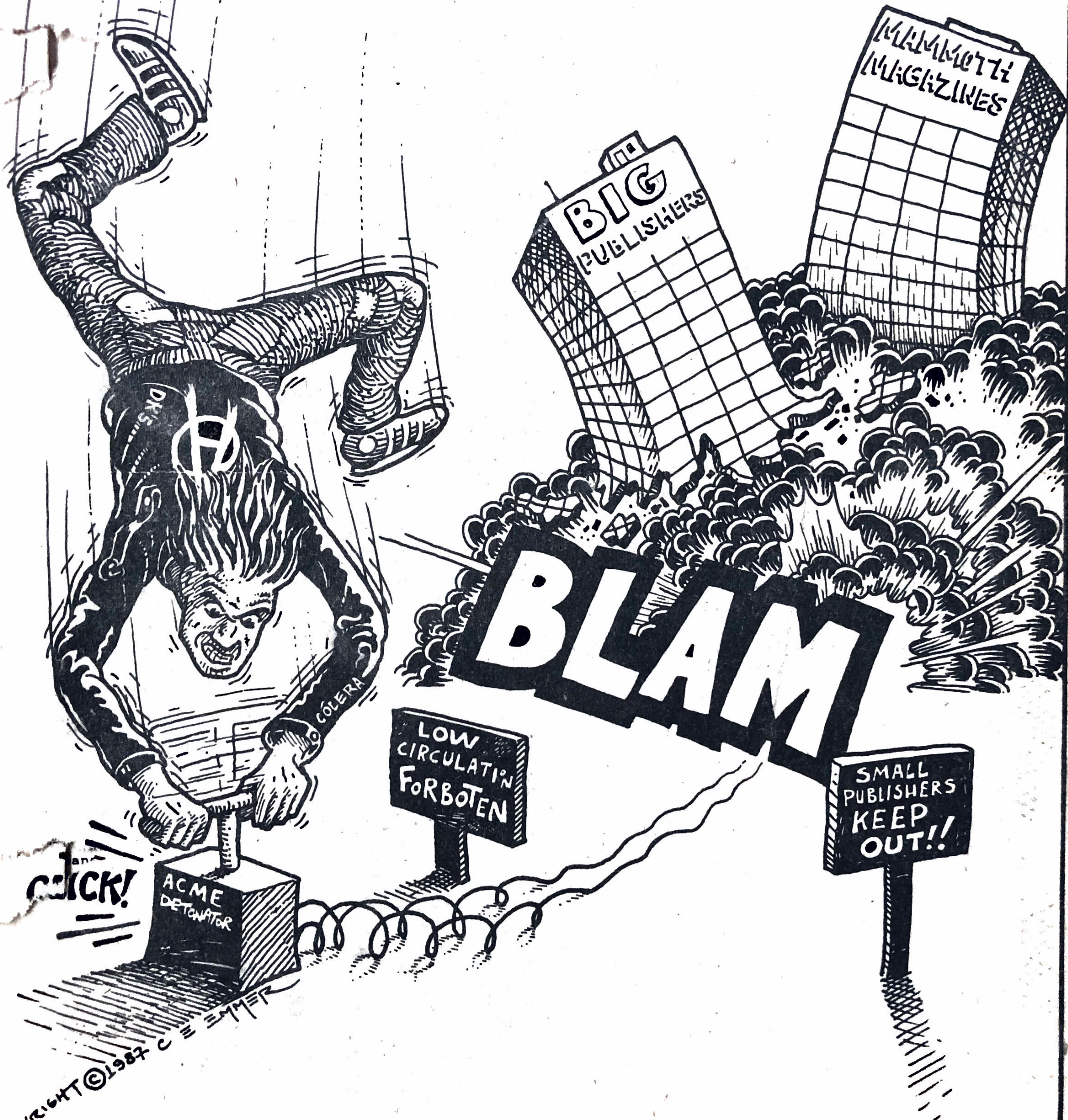


MIKE GUNDERLOY
6 ARIZONA AVE.
RFNSSELAER, NY 12144-4502

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FACTSHEET FIVE 21

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ISSN 0890-6823

Staph

Founderer Emeritus
St. Michael D. Miller, retd.

Spiritual Advisor
St. Stephen Xavier of Trever

Visual Arts Critic
Anni Ackner

Official Curmudgeon
Garry De Young

Poetry Critic
Alison Meyers

Official Conspirator
Kerry W. Thornley, KSC

Aural Arts Critics
Shane Williams
Carol Schutzbank

Contributing Artists

Carl Alessi
Andy Amster
Ace Backwords
Jim Blanchard
Carrie
John Crawford
Kevin Duncan &
Al Manachino
John E.
C.E. Emmer
James Fringe
Glen Humphrey
Tony Martin
J.P. Morgan
Lawrence Oberc
Joe Schwind
D. Sollie
Roger Stewart
Zen Sutherland
Luna Ticks
Denver Tucson
Bradford Veley
Barb Warr
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Column headings by
John E.
J.P. Morgan
Lawrence Oberc
Luna Ticks

Front Cover by
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Moral Support & Production Assistance
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FACTSHEET FIVE is published four times a year, appearing in the mails during the first week of February, May, August and November. [As of 2/87 we are running about 3 weeks late, but hope to be on schedule by the end of the year.] Subscriptions are available at \$2.00 (cash, check, MO or mint US postage stamps) per issue, up to 4 issues in advance. These copies are sent Bulk Mail within the US, First Class to Canada and Mexico, and Surface Mail overseas.

First class subscriptions within the US are available at \$2.75 per issue, while Overseas Airmail may be had for \$5.00 per issue.

Deadlines for FACTSHEET FIVE are the 20th of January, April, July and October.

FACTSHEET FIVE advertising space is available as follows:

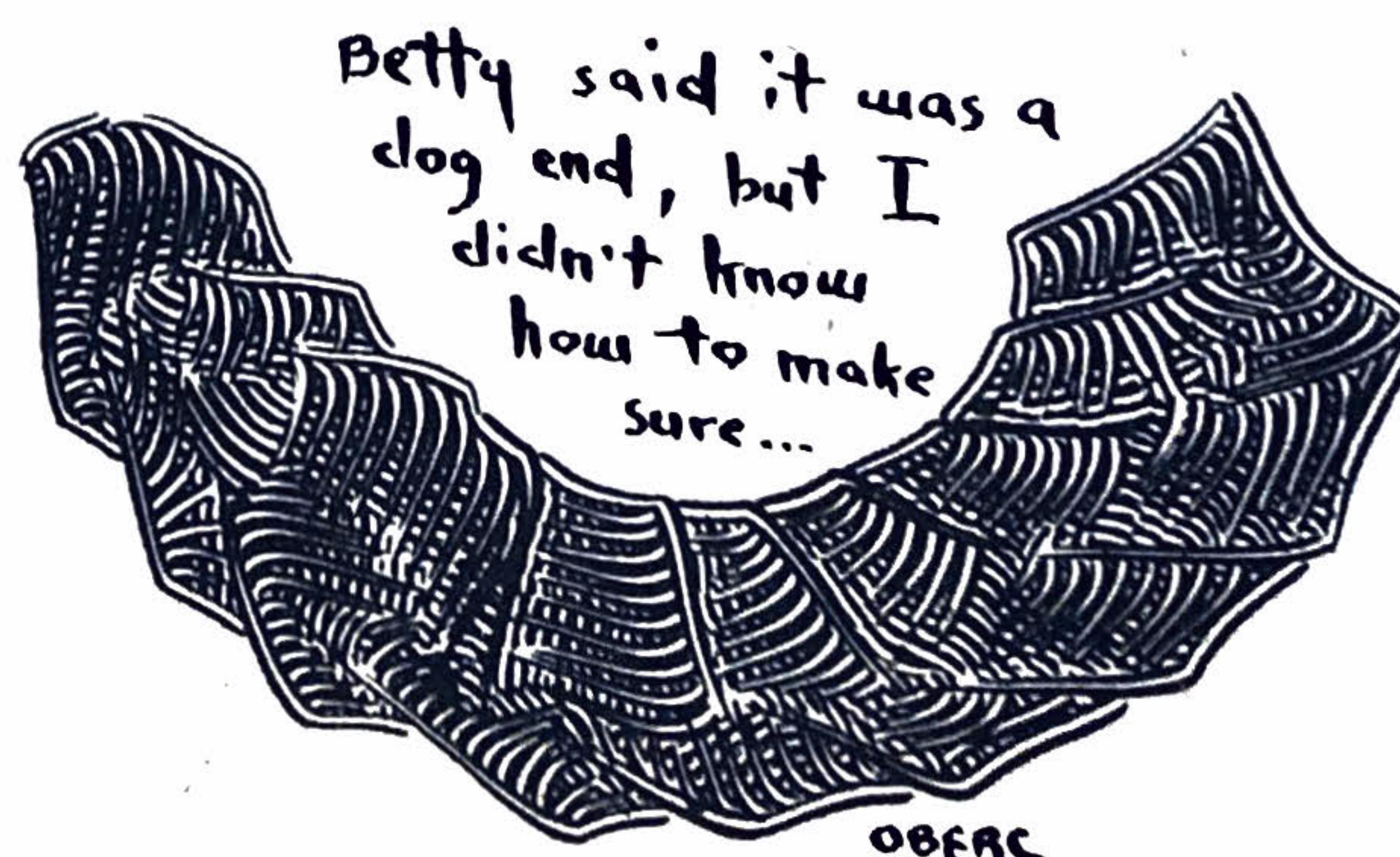
	Unreduced	To be reduced
Full Page	7 1/2" x 9 3/4"	11 1/4" x 14 3/4"
Half Page	7 1/2" x 4 3/4"	11 1/4" x 7 1/4"
Half Page	3 3/4" x 9 3/4"	5 1/2" x 14 3/4"
Quarter Page	3 3/4" x 4 3/4"	5 1/2" x 7 1/4"
Eighth Page	3 3/4" x 2 1/4"	5 1/2" x 3 1/4"
Business Card	2 1/4" x 2"	3 1/2" x 3"

Copy for FACTSHEET FIVE is reduced to 66% of its original linear dimensions. The first column shows width by height for ads to be run exactly as submitted, without reduction. The second column shows width by height for ads to be reduced along with the rest of the publication. Current advertising rates are:

Full Page	\$65.00
Half Page	\$35.00
Quarter Page	\$20.00
Eighth Page	\$12.50
Business Card	\$ 7.50

These prices will probably go up before the end of the year (after all, circulation is up by 50% since the last price hike) but I will honor any commitments I make before that at these rates, including multiple-run commitments. Isn't it time you advertised in FF?

A glossary of unusual terms used in FF is available for an SASE.



Factsheet Five

Welcome to another issue of the zine of crosscurrents and cross-pollination. Available by mail or in person from Mike Gunderloy, 6 Arizona Ave., Rensselaer, NY 12144-4502; phone (518)-479-3086 (no calls after 10PM EST). This is Pretzel Press publication #700, and is intended for direct Bulk Mailing to subscribers and good people across the country, around the world, and right into your face. Press run: 2000 copies. 21st issue, February 1987.

This is where I explain the mailing code, on the far right of the first line of the address label.

A number indicates the last issue that you'll be getting. So if the number is "21", you need to Do Something if you want to keep getting FF. If the number is "21" and you don't even know why you got this, you probably have a Secret Admirer or something. Wanna subscribe?

"+" indicates that you've got nothing to worry about, because you're on the staph, you won a contest, or you just got lucky.

"A" means that you're getting this because of your artwork; either you sent me some or I want you to send me some, or both.

"B" means I'm trading for a book you sent.

"D" means that you're a distributor and so you get one copy for yourself as a freebie. I'm looking for new distributors, people who think they can sell at least ten copies and want to split the proceeds. Distributors get a 40% wholesale discount on all copies, and may sell on consignment. The number after the colon is how many copies I think I'm sending you.

"L" means that you are a Lifetime Subscriber, and therefore exempt from nonsense. Really, it's a great deal.

"M" means you sent me music to review, or that you promised to send me music in the future. I usually allow 2 issues for a single, 3 for a tape, or 4 for an LP, but I screw up a lot, so let me know if you're owed more. (Or less).

"P" means you're a prisoner. FACTSHEET FIVE is always free to prisoners, but you need to keep in touch to keep getting it, otherwise I'll assume the copies aren't getting through to you. Wardens, you gotta pay like anyone else. Prisoners in mental institutions are extended the same privileges as those in allegedly-saner criminal institutions.

"T" means we're trading zines, all-for-all -- that means that I expect to receive one copy of every issue you publish, however often they come out. If you're infrequent, I expect at least a note every six months to keep you on the mailing list. "T?" means that I'd like you to consider trading with me.

Any of the above followed by a number (like "M/21") indicate the issue you'll have to renegotiate to keep getting FF. YOU MUST GET IN TOUCH WITH ME AT LEAST ONCE EVERY TWO ISSUES, REGARDLESS OF THE MAILING CODE, TO CONTINUE GETTING FF! THIS APPLIES TO PRISONERS, ARTISTS, TRADERS, EVERYONE! Send me your zine, drop me a line, do SOMETHING so I know you're still out there. Actually, this doesn't apply to subscribers, only to people getting the zine for free. Clear?

And remember, FF is sent BULK MAIL. Not only

does this make it slow (though, I hope, not TOO slow), but it means undeliverable copies go to that Big Post Office In The Sky. So PLEASE get your COAs to me promptly to avoid missing issues.

Subscription rates are on the Staph page, but here they are again: \$2.00 (cash, check, money order or US stamps) per issue for a regular sub. I used to give a discount for payment in stamps but no longer -- the bookkeeping was too much. Those in the US can subscribe for \$2.75 an issue and get FF delivered First Class instead of Bulk Mail. Those overseas can get Airmail delivery for \$5 per issue. Any of these rates are good for up to 4 issues in advance, protecting you from price rises for a full year. Send money for more than 4 issues and I'll take it as a welcome donation. (Be sure to specify if you're sending money for a 1st class subscription!)

If anyone wants to buy a lifetime subscription (lifetime of the magazine, that is), I'll sell you one for \$50. Or make me a reasonable offer of trade or barter. So far there are three lifetime subscribers -- shouldn't you be the fourth?

Thanks to Donna Young, Robert Soderberg, Frank Nied, Clifford Wang, Al Greenier, Donald Innis, Mike Robbins, Klaus Haisch, Joe Singer and J.C. Brainbeau for their generous donations towards publishing this issue.

IMPORTANT NOTE: I do NOT accept used postage stamps in payment!

If you want FF sent to a friend, just send me their address and \$2, or \$2.75 if you're in a hurry. FF makes a great Christmas, birthday, or Bar Mitzvah present. I'll mark it as a gift from you unless you specify otherwise.

In lieu of sending stamps, money, fanzines, artwork, books, or music you can get FF by sending me something to review that I haven't seen before, or by bartering dangerous drugs, canned goods, or negotiable securities.

Thanks to Mykel Board, Matt Love, Jim Downard, Trevor, Paul Hoffman, Don Webb, Bob Banner, Ferk!, Aaron Rainbow, Rane Arroyo, John Rininger, Crag Hill, Marc Montoni, Karl Johanson, Dave Szurek, Bag of Water, Bob Black, D. Galloway, Freddie Baer, Herb Ashe, and Martin Morse Wooster for sending zines for me to review in this issue.

What won't work is sending too little money, non-credible threats, or just begging. Sorry, them's the breaks.



NEWS

This time I get to start out by welcoming all the people who subscribed after reading CHRIS Gunderson's review in UTNE reader. Chris, stand up and take a bow. But make sure you correct your records to show the new address:

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

FACTSHEET FIVE has had a new address for about 6 months now, and a lot of people still haven't noticed. Bulk mailers in particular should get their act together, but the forwarding order is going to expire soon as well. This means that a lot of your publications won't be in the next review section if you don't straighten things out, and we wouldn't want that to happen, would we? So PLEASE update your files to show me at:

Mike Gunderloy
FACTSHEET FIVE
6 Arizona Ave.
Rensselaer, NY 12144-4502

It wouldn't hurt to tell your readers about this.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS:

* COMMUNITY 3 RECORDS has spun out to 1700 Lexington Ave., New York, NY 10029.

* FLOATING WORLD has floated on down to 12028 Venice Blvd. #4-263, Mar Vista, CA 90066-3810.

* MOSKITOZUMOJ has flown with Herb Ashe to PO Box 2390, Galveston, TX 77553.

* SUBURBAN VOICE is now at PO Box 1605, Lynn, MA 01903.

* A VERY SMALL MAGAZINE is now c/o Beth Blevins, PO Box 751, Chapel Hill, NC 27514.

LOST ADDRESSES:

Anyone got a current address for these?

- * ADARA (Elizabeth Shaw)
- * THEATRE OF ICE

HELP

From time to time I get requests for addresses that the FF archives cannot supply. Here's a simple problem for the FF readership to ponder:

*Ted at SEE HEAR (59 E. 7th St., New York, NY 10003) has a customer who wants to find some K/S (as in Kirk/Spock) zines. SEE HEAR, by the way, is a great friend to FF and a fine store, and you should visit when you're in town. I know some of you have these addresses, so send 'em along.

<BULLETIN BOARD>>>>

OTHER NEWS:

*CHEAP TRUTH, the house mouth organ of the Cyberpunk movement, has ceased publication, alas. Electronic flowers may be sent to SMOF-BBS (address below in the LETTERS section).

*INERT INGREDIENTS (PO Box 619, Mount Sinai, NY 11766) is a new distributor offering domestic and

imported records, and some fanzines. Send an SASE for the pricelist.

*DE MEDIA (Molenstraat 165-B, 9900 Eeklo, BELGIUM) is opening a Small Magazines Archive in the near future. They propose to send out regular reports on zines received and are interested in getting copies of all non-commercial zines. Write for more details.

*The New Religious Movements Collection (Graduate Theological Union Library, 2400 Ridge Rd., Berkeley, CA 94709) is interested in getting on the mailing lists of "non-Christian religious organizations". They have various bibliographies available for trade.

*The World Federation for Peace (Anse St.-Jean, Quebec, GOV 1J0, CANADA) wants everyone to join together and work for peace. Literature available on request, I guess.

*The Harold and Maude Club (1800 "A" St., Lincoln, NE 68502) is planning a quarterly newsletter devoted to this fine movie in the near future.

*NEW PAGES (4426 S. Belsay Rd., Grand Blanc, MI 48439) offers mailing lists of possible interest to larger underground publishers, including lists of bookstores and college and public libraries.

*The NUCLEAR INFORMATION AND RESOURCE SERVICE (1616 P. St. NW #160, Washington, DC 20036) is a pressure group forming to demand more stringent protections from the NRC. Write for more info.

*THE NATIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR A PEACE TAX FUND (2121 Decatur Pl. NW, Washington, DC 20008) is trying to get a law passed that would let you redirect at least part of your taxes away from the Defense Department. Write for details.

*ENGLISH FIRST (5881 Leesburg Pike #204, Falls Church, VA 22041) wants to outlaw the printing of any official documents in this country in other languages. They say their forefathers were too stupid to vote before they learned English so why should today's immigrants be any different. The whole dreadful mess is supported by a batch of people from various state legislatures, led by some Texas bozo named Jim Horn. I'm sure they'll send you more information and a postpaid return envelope if you ask. What you do with it then is up to you.

*Bob Banner from CRITIQUE tells me that both SHAVERTRON and THE LARSEN FILE have ceased publication and are only selling off back issues.

*The Haymarket '86 Remembered Project (c/o Harry Levine, PO Box 10147, Olympia, WA 98502) is still seeking donations to help finance the cost of a 160-page book on last year's anarchist conference.

*THE BOUND TOGETHER NEWSLETTER has ceased publication for the moment, but will probably be back in some guise in the future. For information on back issues try sending a 39¢ SASE to Bound Together Books, 1369 Haight St., San Francisco, CA 94117.

*SCIENCE FICTION REVIEW has ceased publication, but back issues are still available and editor Richard Geis is still publishing THE NAKED ID (address below).

*THE CENTER FOR SHAMANIC STUDIES (PO Box 673, Belden St., Norwalk, CT 06852) offers various courses in the Harner Method of Shamanic Counseling, whatever that is. SASE for info.

*NOMOS (727 S. Dearborn St., Chicago, IL 60605) is considering becoming a shareholder-owned for-profit corporation. They've been very successful as a non-profit Libertarian outreach magazine, and think they could do even better with a little seed money. They're thinking of 1000 shares at \$50 each. If you're interested in a piece of the action, drop them a line.

*Eduard Markov (Mailing address: USSR, RFSFR, Leningrad 196340, Kostyushko 10 / Apt 67, Markov Eduard) is a Soviet science fiction fan who is essentially a non-person in their society. Since things can't get any worse he would be pleased to

hear from Western fans. He is also a refusenik, and letters on his behalf to your local Russian Ambassador are in order. More information is available from the publishers of SIC BUISCUIT DISINTEGRAT (address in ZINES section).

*MEDIA DISTRIBUTION CO-OP (1745 Louisiana St., Lawrence, KS 66044) have various mailing lists and other resources for the struggling writer and artist available.

*Herb Ashe (PO Box 2390, Galveston, TX 77553) writes "I've got a mail art project up my sleeve, entitled CRUCIFIX FISH, about which I would welcome inquiries."

*AMERICAN SUNBEAM has ceased publication.

*HUNA RESEARCH, INC. (Dr. E. Otha Wingo, 126 Camellia Dr., Cape Girardeau, MO 63701) has various resources available for those interested in the ancient Hawaiian system of magic. SASE for info.

*WIGGANSNATCH has suspended publication until further notice.

*The Institute for Soviet-American Relations (1608 Hampshire Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20009) works to improve US-USSR relations on a grassroots basis. They have a journal (sample on request) and other contacts such as pen pal listings available.

*Light Living Library (PO Box 190, Philomath, OR 97370) will send you information on their various publications on self-sufficiency and living simply for an SASE.

*PDK Labs, Inc. (65 Air Park Dr., Ronkonkoma, NY 11779-7385) sell a variety of vitamins, minerals, diet supplements and OTC drugs by mail at low bulk prices.

*Dave Barbarash and Ken Quayles from the Toronto Anti-Authoritarian News Network were busted in late January for writing "Meat is Murder" on a Kentucky Fried Chicken outlet. The information I have is sketchy, but apparently they have been charged with a series of Animal Liberation Front actions and are out on \$10,000 bail each. Contributions for the expected legal battle may be sent to the Colonel Slanders Defense Fund, c/o THE HARDER THEY FALL, 456 Spadina Ave. 2nd Fl., Toronto, ONT M5T 2G8, CANADA.

*I've been asked to announce the imminent publication of a new zine, SICK. "Sick will be a commentary on the sick world we live in! It will be packed full with outrageous solutions to the dramatic Upevils the New generation faces in the years to come....Sick will be about politics, music, fashion, militarism, men & women. Sick will break new ground in a land that fears changes, because Sick has nothing to lose, yet..." You can send inquiries or contributions to PO Box 742, Westport, CT 06881.

*One more 800 phone number: 800-348-2607 is the phone number of the Christian Research Institute's call-in radio show, 3-4 PM Monday through Friday and 9:30-11:30 PM Saturday (all times PST). Anyone who would like a shot at the "Bible Answer Man" live on the air is encouraged to go for it. My informant says it isn't hard to get through.

*In the wake of the recent drug-testing flap, a group has formed to promote the "piss-in mail-in". To participate, send a baggie of your urine to Ronald Reagan, The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20050.

*LOVE 22 (PO Box 622, W. Kingston, RI 02892) is still running for President on his 22-plank platform. You can still get five \$22 bills for a buck.

FACTSHEET FIVE PROJECTS:

*I am finally offering the FACTSHEET FIVE mailing list on self-adhesive labels. This issue's list of roughly 1300 names is available for \$30. If you prefer, you can get the list on plain paper for \$15. I can also provide specialty lists (all fanzines, all distributors, all music zines, all

artists, or whatever else you can come up with) for 5¢ a name on labels or 3¢ a name on paper.

*I am also prepared to offer the mailing list or the contents of FF itself (sans art) on IBM-PC compatible DSDD diskettes. The mailing list is one diskette and I'll include the shareware DBMS I use on a second diskette. FF itself also takes up two diskettes. You can get either package of two diskettes for \$12, or all four diskettes for \$20.

*If anyone doesn't want their name given out on mailing labels or diskette, please let me know.

*I am considering offering a special edition of FACTSHEET FIVE with full-size rather than reduced print. If there is anyone interested in this, please get in touch with me so I can work out the details.

*The Gemstone File is a conspiratorial mishmash of theories that have been circulating in samisdat form around the US. I have copies of three different versions (something over 50 pages total) available for \$5 total to those interested in this sort of thing -- and I'm looking for more versions if you have any.

*Martti Koski's MY LIFE DEPENDS ON YOU, an account of RCMP mind control experiments, is available for \$1.

*In the near future -- with any luck, before the next issue of FF comes out -- I will be offering Kerry Thornley's NOTES OF A NEON GRINGO in booklet form. This is Kerry's collected columns from about ten FFs and will be 16 pages with illustrations by Freddie Baer, who did the cover on #20. If you can't wait to get your copy, send me \$3 now. 75% of the profits will go to Kerry.

*The FF ZINE EXCHANGE, announced last issue, has been enough of a success for me to continue. This is my means of getting rid of spare copies of zines. Send me an SASE with 22¢ to \$2.40 postage and I'll stuff it with whatever I have laying about (\$2.40 is enough to mail a couple of pounds within the country, so make it a big envelope!) You may have to be a bit patient while I sort the mess from this issue, but I will be taking care of this over the next month or so. And some of the publishers here have been sending extra copies for the Zine Exchange, a practice I will encourage as long as it doesn't get to be too much of a hassle. In line with that, remember, send a SELF-ADDRESSED STAMPED ENVELOPE to minimize the work I have to do. Thank you.

GETTING ZINES

Just a few hints to consider when you're writing away for fanzines:

* If I list a name in the address for a zine, you ought to make checks or money orders out to that name rather than the zine name. If a zine has odd payment requirements, I try to note this in the address section of the listing.

* On a related topic, when I put a question mark after the price it means that I'm guessing because the zine editors didn't list a price.

* On zines with a price under \$1, it really helps to include a few stamps for postage.

* Canadians generally don't mind receiving U.S. funds, but for other countries you should think about alternative payment. Foreign currency is available at larger banks, and IRCs at your post office. Foreign MOs are also available from the post office, but can take forever to get.

* I'd appreciate it if you'd mention FACTSHEET FIVE when ordering zines you saw reviewed here. It helps us all in the long run, as the more credibility I build up the more fine zines I'll be able to bring to your attention.

* If you have any problems with a zine please let me know. I'll be happy to contact publishers in cases of non-receipt. 99% of the time it's just a case of things being lost in the mail.

* If you have time, any zine publisher enjoys

hearing comments on the zine he has sent you. This is especially true if you didn't like it; we all like to improve. Even a simple note of thanks can make a publisher's day, though.

* Many zine publishers print small quantities, so you may not be able to get the exact issue that I reviewed. If you MUST have that particular issue, say so, and be prepared to say extra. Otherwise it's best just to request the most recent or the next issue and save trouble for everyone.

ZINES:

Sometimes people send me ads for zines rather than the zines themselves. Here's the dope:

* THE CONNECTION (\$2 from Erwin S. Strauss, 4271 Duke St. #D-10, Alexandria, VA 22304) is an apa for libertarians, anarchists, and arguers.

* GENERIC ALTERNATIVE (3434 Blueridge, Abilene, TX 79605) is a pfnzine that's soliciting bands for a compilation album.

* THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF CRYPTOZOOLOGY (\$2.50 from PO Box 43070, Tucson, AZ 85733) is dedicated to tracking down unexpected animals like Nessie and Champ.

* MAGICKAL DAYS (\$13/yr from Castle Rising, PO Box 1490, Idaho Springs, CO 80452) is a neo-pagan journal. They also have a 1987 calendar available for \$8.

* THE NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF GAY AND LESBIAN SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL PROFESSIONALS (\$10/yr from PO Box 39582, Los Angeles, CA 90039) publishes a newsletter and pamphlets.

* SUBWAY MAGAZINE (\$2 from PO Box 2892, Cambridge, MA 02238) is a "comprehensive literary, visual and performing arts portfolio and information exchange publication."

* THEISTIC EVOLUTIONIST FORUM (\$12/yr from E.T. Babinski, 224 Parliament Dr., Greenville, SC 29615) is a forum for both creationists and atheists who wish to go after each others' arguments.

Back issues of FACTSHEET FIVE are available as follows:

#1, 2, 3, 4, 17.1	\$1 each
#6, 9, 12, 14, 19	\$2 each
#5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20	\$3 each
Complete set	\$38

The first four issues are ditto-printed and much smaller than those to follow. The remaining issues are either the original printing (\$2 issues) or xerox copies (\$3 issue), which look the same but cost me substantially more to make. All of the issues from #4 through #18 were in digest format, 8 1/2 by 5 1/2 inches. #19 was full-sized, 52 pages. #20 was 64 pages and the first of the current format.

Æditorial

Winter has come to Rensselaer and it has been frequently below zero for the past few days while I've finished up this issue. If I were writing in cliches I'd assure you that reading all these wonderful zines has made me feel warm anyhow, but the truth is, it's damned cold here, zines or no zines.

I'd like to apologize for all the sniveling I did about needing subscriptions last time. I'd also like to thank those of you who did send a few bucks or dig up new subscribers -- the response from readers was quite good. FF won't die, and in fact I hope to make a series of improvements this year. The first one is in process: an overhaul of the "look" of FF, with several artists contributing new column headings in this issue. If there are any artists on my mailing list that I haven't contacted yet, I am still looking for more art and covers -- drop me a line and I'll send you the details.

And that reminds me that the cover last issue (which one reader referred to as the "naked zine bag lady") was done by the incredibly talented Freddie Baer, who didn't get proper credit at the time because I was unsure it would print properly. Three cheers for Freddie, and if you want to write her and beg for art, you can find her address under CALENDARS in the zine review section. Or if you just want to see more of it, you can send me \$3 for a copy of NOTES OF A NEON GRINGO when it comes out.

On another subject entirely, it seems to me that it is about time for someone to publish a Guide to Guides, giving ordering information and descriptions of things like FACTSHEET FIVE, SPECTRUM, WHOLE EARTH REVIEW, UTNE READER, SIPAPU, SAMISDAT, FUNHOUSE, and so on. The idea is free for anyone who wants to follow up on it.

Remember, if you ever have a problem with FF (like I cash your check and don't send you anything) write me and I'll straighten it out. I do everything I can to satisfy customers, including acknowledging and making up for my mistakes.

Well, that's enough babbling for now. With any luck, it will be warmer when the next issue rolls around and I'll be more coherent. Then again, #22 is due out right around finals week...

Ullin





BACK BRAIN RECLUSE #7 (US Agent: The Strange Company, PO Box 864, Madison, WI 53701): No price listed for U.S. copies (Chris Reed publishes this in Britain), but I suggest you write them and find out, since it's well worth the price of the stamps to enquire. This is a SF literary zine (as opposed to a sfzine), and the contents of this issue are rather impressive, to say the least. The reason is that this is a special Michael Moorcock issue, put out with the aid & approval of Moorcock itself. The centerpiece is undoubtedly the long and chatty interview with Moorcock, but the fictional stuff is good as well. Andrew Darlington, Chris Reed & Steve Sneyd all contribute additions to the Jerry Cornelius mythos, while Moorcock provides a couple of poems. I happen to be a fan of his stuff myself, but even if I weren't the tight production and loving care with which this issue is done would have won me over.

CONSTITUTION PAPER #1 (\$5 from Central News Service, PO Box 7075, Laguna Niguel, CA 92677): In honor of the 200th anniversary of the US Constitution, this is a look back at four of the men who made it possible: Washington, Hamilton, Jefferson and Madison. I wouldn't call this revisionist history, inasmuch as it is based on quite standard sources, but the emphasis is certainly different than what you got in school. The author's conclusion is that the founding fathers "were, ultimately, mere mortals capable of all the errors of plain human beings....Not one of them actually supported the freedom of the common people." This could be the harbinger of a libertarian and anarchist response to the festivities planned for 1987. To be followed by papers on the Constitutional convention and the Constitution itself.

THE HARMONIST Vol. 1 #2 (\$2.95 from One Almaden Blvd. #300, San Jose, CA 95113): A new slick magazine from a new bunch of new age publishers. Sure, articles about seltzer water are trendy and Fritz Capra still sounds like a brain damage case, but the production and scope of this one make up for a few gaffes. Michael Dolan's spiel on "Conservatism, Consumerism and other Things" is a good piece of analysis; Tom Weller gives us an excerpt from SCIENCE MADE STUPID, and the Mindscape column of new happenings is what the roundup of news in OMN could be if the editors there weren't such space wimps. I don't know what the future holds for this one, but if they can stay in business and grow to fulfill their early promise they'll shake up both the new agers and the old.

THE MATCH #81 (\$1.50 from Fred Woodworth, PO Box 3488, Tucson, AZ 85722): This is going to be one of my more controversial choices this time around. The reason is that Fred is at times an asshole; he's been known to go off on strange tangents (like his crusade against unleaded gas) and to get in flaming rows with other anarchists. But THE MATCH is 60 pages of sometimes polemical but always thought-

provoking anarchy. I can't describe all the contents, but some of the high points are: the anti-Reagan editorial "Adrift in a Fog"; "Astrology: Superstition or Fraud?"; J.R. Ybarra's "Around & About" column; and the ever-argumentative letters. Fred's brand of uncompromising atheist anarchism turns a lot of people off, but I suspect that Emma Goldman would find THE MATCH more understandable than many other periodicals in the field today.

NEW PATHWAYS Vol. 1 #6 (\$2.50 from MGA Services, PO Box 863994, Plano, TX 75086-3994): It hasn't taken this one long to work its way into my heart. NP is quite simply the best SF zine that I get (I'm not comparing it with the major newsstand mags that I don't read, but it's head and shoulders above other semiprozines). Take a look at some of the contents of this issue: Interviews with Michael Bishop, Paul Williams and Mark Ziesing; interior art entirely by Ferret (that I should be so lucky!) and, yes, the stories! Don Webb's "The Hag of Carmel Towers" is another gem from this wonderful newcomer who skillfully blends storytelling with arcane lore and humor; Brian Aldiss's "Enigma 2" is an interesting insight into the writing process, being an unfinished sketch; and Jessica Amanda Salmonson presents a bit of surreality in "Strange Doings in Viktor's Village". NP is also notable in that it's one of the few pubs I know that manages to make desktop publishing look attractive. A joy both to look at and to read.

PARADOX #5 (75¢ from Yurus, 676 Pleasant St. #3, Worcester, MA 01602): Few zines I get are this exuberant. PARADOX features foldout centerfolds, hand-colored drawings, and a handmade sticker in this issue. The contents are mostly in the artistic range, with collages, drawings, and poetry filling most of the space. Many of the contributors will be familiar to FF readers: Carrie, Carol S., Kyle Hogg, Larry Oberc and more have their two bits in this issue. There are also reprints of things from JAG and LITTLE FREE PRESS, a bacover for you to color yourself, and a few music reviews, plus probably one or two things that I haven't discovered yet. Great fun, and the price is awesomely low for the amount of effort put into the product.

RFD #49 (\$4.25 from Rte. 1 Box 127-E, Bakersville, NC 28705): Don't worry about the price; this "Country Journal for Gay Men Everywhere" is close to 100 pages long. With that much to choose from, I can only hope to give some idea of the contents; the details await you if you send for one. First off, don't let the "Country" fool you; this isn't all about the joys of farming and living in the sticks (although that stuff is here) nor the problems of being gay 500 miles from the nearest non-redneck bar (though that gets its share of coverage). Besides that, there are: art and fiction (some of the former at least rather explicit), book reviews, reports on their "Brothers Behind Bars" prison support project, health news, poetry and a batch of quick news items. These latter are arranged

by topic: Politics, Media, Health, Environment and so on. There are also letters from readers, both commenting on back issues and seeking visitors. The whole thing is attractively presented and obviously a labor of love. This issue has a special section on the country lifestyle, but even without specials, it's impressive.

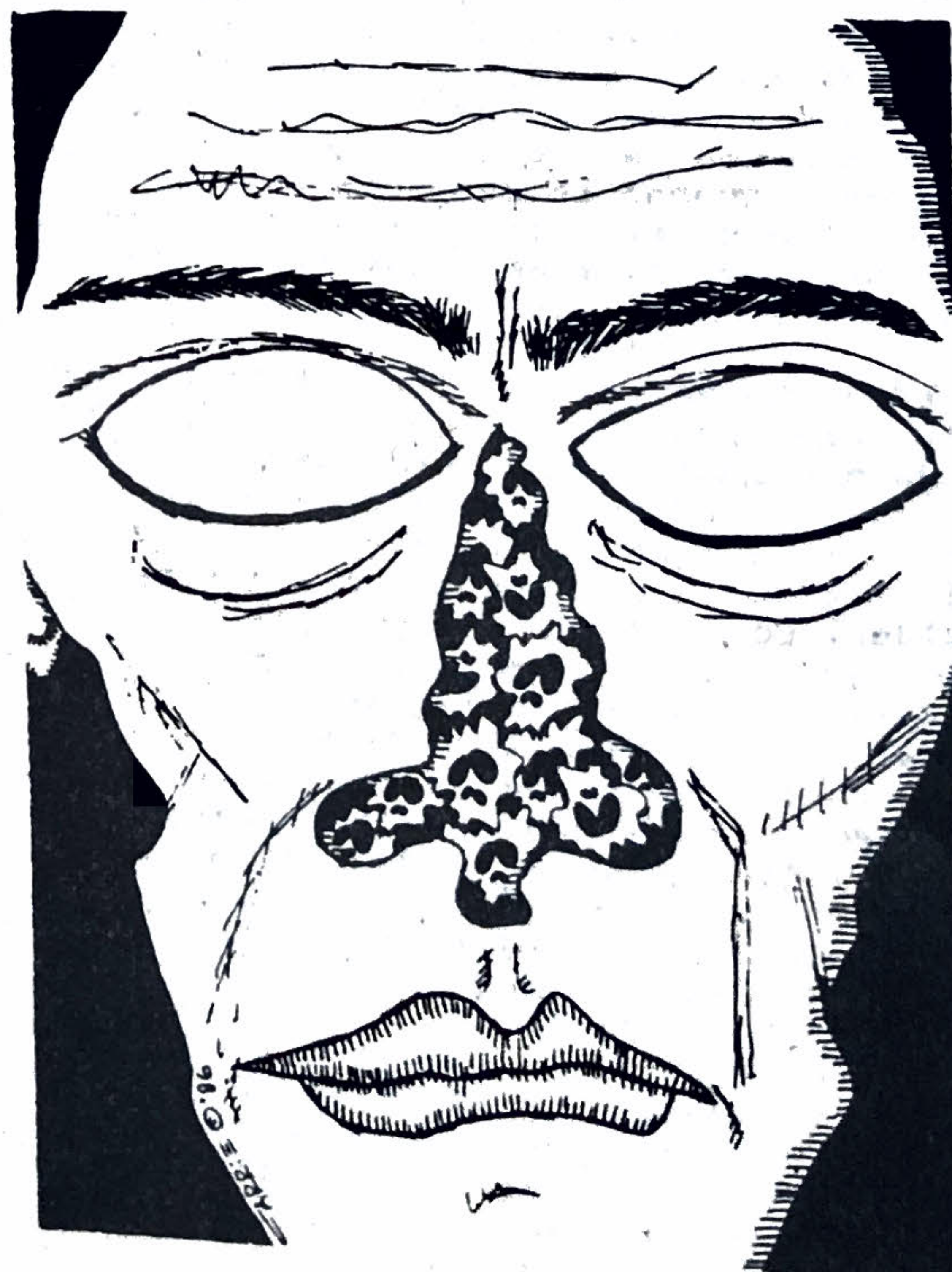
SPIEGELMAN'S MAILART RAG Vol. 1 #4 (from Lon Spiegelman, 1556 Elevado St., Los Angeles, CA 90026): No one can tell you what mail art is all about, but Lon can tell you more than most. His twenty-page occasional journal contains hundreds of names and addresses and, more importantly, vital news of the mail art network and sundry other connections. This issue lists 130 mail art publications (past and present), decries postal plans to shut down rural offices, ruminates on the New Audiencelessness, and unveils a manifesto for Spiegelmisim. There are also some thoughts on the selling of mail art archives, apparently as a result of a scandal which has rocked the mail art network in recent years. No cover price -- I'd say \$1.50 ought to get you a copy, but a piece of mail art or a sincere interest might get have a better chance. Then again, someone has to pay for printing and postage.

TOM GILL PREDICTS Vol. 9 #6 (30¢ from 2477 Sycamore Ln. #E6, Davis, CA 95616-5571): I don't know who Gill is, but this twenty times a year single sheeter is one of the funniest things I've run across in a long time. I just wish one of my readers had called my attention to it years ago -- what's wrong with you folks? Anyhow, here's a few of the things to have already appeared in Volume 9 (selected from various issues): A novel idea for the Star Wars program involving an induced nova of the sun; a WOMENS DAY-style questionnaire titled "Are You a Neanderthal?"; a bunch of modern (but untrue) rumors, the archetypes of the New Age; and the annual Yearbook issue featuring various Top Ten lists. (I was pleased to see Tonio K. on the pop album listing). When you see the drooling face of Mickey Moose in the corner, you know you're in for some good stuff below.

UTNE READER #19 (\$4 from PO Box 1974, Marion, OH 43305): It seems almost like cheating to put this one here, but if you don't know about UR, it should be brought to your attention. Larger, more professional and slicker than most anything else I cover, this one claims to be printing "The Best of the Alternative Press". It may well be, if you accept that there is an underground that's not respectable enough to be a part of their alternative. But still, these articles from LA Weekly, In These Times, Vanity Fair, the Wilson Quarterly and so on probably haven't passed across your desk, and they do deserve a wider circulation. Besides a special section devoted to living in harmony with nature and animals, there are thoughts on Star Wars, drug testing, avant-garde cinema, Buddhism and other trendy but vital issues. They also review a few selected smaller zines, and if they review yours, you can count on a sudden influx of subscriptions. A walloping 128 typeset pages, and certainly a better set of selections than READERS DIGEST will offer you.

WRESTLING OBSERVER NEWSLETTER Jan. 19, 1987 (\$5/4 issues from Dave Meltzer, 302 E. Hawkeye Ave. #356, Turlock, CA 95380): Half of my readers are going to think I'm crazy for putting this here, but it is definitely an impressive piece of work. As if the title wouldn't tip you off, this is news from the pro wrestling world -- you know, Hulk Hogan, Andre the Giant and all those other guys you see on independent TV stations now and then. Dave seems to have a phenomenal knowledge of all of this, and the

10 page (weekly!) newsletter shares it with his readers. Reports of results and rumors from dozens of different wrestling circuits in the USA and abroad, thoughts about personalities and money, letters from readers...there's a lot packed in here. I'm also impressed by the way he walks the line between recognizing the choreography involved in the sport and recognizing the very real physical demands it makes in the ring. A good show.



ZINES

2600 Vol. 4 #1 (\$12/yr from PO Box 752, Middle Island, NY 11953): This magazine for fone phreaks and computer hackers is going up in price soon, but it's changed to a larger, more attractive format so there's no beef from me. This issue contains Cheshire Catalyst's history of TAP, notes on taking over a VMS system (written at a decent technical level for a change) and a list of cellular phone frequencies, plus the usual editorial thoughts and letters. A zine for aspiring stainless steel rats.

THE 3 STOOGES JOURNAL (\$6/yr from 710 Collins Ave., Lansdale, PA 19446): Well, you know what this is all about. It's from the official 3 Stooges fan club, and it splits between news bearing on the Stooges (no matter how tenuous the link) and stuff that one can buy having some connection with them. Includes a list of those licensed to use the 3 Stooges name on their products and a classified ad section.

THE 39 SCREAMS #5 (\$2.00 from Thunder Baas Press, PO Box 1614, Baltimore, MD 21203): A horror comic book that tries to emulate the great banned comics of yesteryear. Unfortunately the art and writing just aren't up to the task in most cases. The best piece here is Mr. Verlin's "Of Nonsense", and it's more of note for the psychedelic art than for any scary plot.

ABORIGINAL SF #1 (\$3 from PO Box 2449, Woburn, MA 01888-0849): A new science fiction tabloid featuring full color art that is really quite striking. The insides are quite a mix; there's a column of news about SF personalities, a nonsensical column from their "alien publisher", book reviews and a few other odds and ends. Plus there is SF. In this issue Hal Clement designs a solar system for future stories and opens it up to writers (John Taylor has a story set there in this issue) and Orson Scott Card contributes a little literary bauble. It's an ambitious beginning, and there are supposed to be a few more issues out by now. But I can't help thinking of the other splashy starts that have failed miserably in the field over the past decade.

ACCESS TO ENERGY Vol. 14 #2 (\$1.50 from PO Box 2298, Boulder, CO 80306): "A Pro-Science, Pro-Technology, Pro-Free Enterprise Monthly Newsletter", this one commits the cardinal sin of being in favor of nuclear energy. Topics in this issue include the actual damages from Chernobyl, the miscarriage of justice in the Karen Silkwood case (her heirs got \$1.3 million) and VDT radiation. I doubt that most of my readers will be interested in someone who prefers nuke power to solar. After all, the underground press is only for the right sort of unpopular ideas.

ACTION! IMWU NEWSLETTER Dec. 1986 (\$1 from 1728 W. Ball Rd. #4, Anaheim, CA 92804): This comes from people who are trying to organize a new local of the International Music Workers Union in Orange County. The twist is that they are punk rockers, anarchists and other unsavory characters who are tired of being pushed around and so are resorting to classical

activism. Old line unionists might take heart from this indication that their ideas aren't dead; other harassed young musicians might want to get in touch and see what they think of the idea.

ACTIVE SINGLES LIFE Dec. 1986 (\$12/yr from 1436 Elliott Ave. W, Seattle, WA 98119): And here I thought the people who fill up singles bars couldn't read. Ok, the first half of this is full of important stuff you've got to know to pick up members of the opposite sex: what movies and records are hot (books? what's a book?) and what your horoscope is for the month. The second half is filled with ads, most pretty tame, but a quick scan shows at least a few dominant or submissive folks making their preferences known.

THE ACTIVIST #17 (\$6/yr from Manna Underground Press, 3833 1/2 Mahoning Ave., Youngstown, OH 44515): "Radical Truth through Art-Music-Social Commentary" proclaims the masthead of this tabloid. They deliver on at least two out of three counts -- the last depends on whether you consider comics and similar graphics to be "art". The music is mainly Christian oriented, although non-Christian groups are reviewed (Dead Kennedys, Violent Femmes, etc.) Articles for the social commentary section this time focus on apartheid and its effects.

ACTIVIST NETWORK NEWS Vol. 1 #4 (\$1 (?) from Defenders of Wildlife, 1244 Nineteenth St. NW, Washington, DC 20036): DoW appears to be an animal rights group that is concentrating on legislative solutions rather than direct action. This newsletter is an update on various governmental actions -- the Japanese fishing treaty, EPA insecticide rulings, wildlife funding victories, and so on. No pleas for money or action that I can see.

THE ACTS THE SHELF LIFE #1 (\$4.50 from Xexoxial Endarchy, 1341 Williamson, Madison, WI 53703): A variety of things from different artists collected under the general rubric of "visual-verbal networking". This stuff tends to be somewhere between drawing and poetry; there are letters and words involved, but they don't necessarily behave as one might expect. The parallels with much mail art are clear. There are also hieroglyphics, strange signs and drawings. Plus there are pieces which reflect on all this networking and try to determine the meaning behind it or the rules structuring it. Future issues are planned with the themes "Polyarty" and "Graphism". I don't know what impulse prompts people to batter down the barriers that surround language and set it off from the world, but whatever it is, there's a lot of it here.

ADVENTURES IN LEARNING #14 (\$1 from PO Box 7627, Menlo Park, CA 94026): This one comes from a couple of teachers who are in favor of using games to teach -- mostly role-playing games. They also plug computer programming for the same reason. AIL is a mixture of everything from philosophical thoughts on education to practical tips on running RPGs (on a fairly simple level) to problems that can be solved in BASIC by students. Looks like a handy resource guide for those trying to figure out what to let the kids do on the computer.

ALERT AMERICANS ASSOCIATION (SASE from PO Box 3332, Venice, FL 33595): These people have a variety of things available of interest to Constitutionalists and fellow travellers. The packet they mailed me includes anti-abortion literature, a subscription offer for THE SPOTLIGHT, barley juice plugs, and some stuff of the coming New World Order, which of course they are against. They also publish a "Patriotic Directory" with over 5000 listings.

A.L.F. CANADA FRONT LINE NEWS #3 (\$10/yr from PO Box 915, Stn. F, Toronto, ONT M4Y 2N9, CANADA): This is not precisely from the Animal Liberation Front, but rather from their above-ground support group. The more I read of this, the more confused I think the ALF are. "Saving" animals from labs might be defensible in some circumstances, but in one daring action reported here, the ALF visited an underground parking garage and did \$1000 worth of damage to a researcher's car. This is non-violence? Or violence in defense of animals? What do they do next, burn his house down? For those wanting news of worldwide animal rights actions, however misguided, this is an excellent source. [Late note: a couple of Toronto anarchists have been arrested and charged with ALF actions; see the NEWS section for more details.]

G. G. ALLIN

Mr. Allin is definitely one of the most disgusting figures in rock today. He sings about rape and masturbation and bestiality and less appealing subjects. His backing bands make gaudy noises. His gigs feature profanity, on-stage defecation, and visits to the hospital. Naturally, all this makes him rather popular in certain circles. Recently two zines showcasing his abilities have come out.

CONFLICT 43 (\$1 from Gerard Cosloy, 62 Ave. C #3, New York, NY 10009): Cosloy will probably be pissed at ending up in this box, but what the heck, he's pissed off plenty of people himself with the no-holds-barred review policy of CONFLICT. (Your money gloatingly not refunded if you find a review you think sucks). This issue will be even more controversial than most, since it features a full-length interview (and you can almost see the full length in the photo) with G.G. Covers all the expected topics like raping little girls, shooting up in the foot, sex with dogs, and other fun things to do on a Saturday night.

HATED IN THE NATION (\$2 from Bloody Mess, 5523 Montello Dr., Peoria, IL 61614): This one is devoted entirely to G.G.'s career, 1978-1986. Bloody has toured with him, and this features explicit photos and personal reminiscences, as well as ephemera from past years. A vast collage of newspaper stories, record reviews (including some from FACTSHEET FIVE), explicit sex and less savory photos, and other detritus. THE definitive story on "Public Animal Number 1". Definitely recommended for anyone fascinated by the darker recesses of punk, and invaluable ammunition in the hands of the likes of Tipper Gore.

ALTERNATIVE ENERGY TRANSPORTATION NEWSLETTER Vol. 8 #6 (\$50/yr from Campbell Publishing, 327 Central Park West, New York, NY 10025): Any way you can think of to move vehicles using other than gasoline or diesel is fair game for this one. Photovoltaic, natural gas, hydrogen, methanol...all of these and many more have been considered in past issues. AET keeps extremely good track of happenings in the industry and conferences of interest, and digest the news into an easily readable six to eight pages per issue. It's a specialized market, to be sure, but it's indispensable within that market -- which will grow larger when and if crude oil supplies diminish.

ALTERNATIVE FICTION & POETRY #2 (\$3 from Philip Athans, 7783 Kensington Ln., Hanover Park, IL 60107): Phil is getting into an alternative that is already familiar to many PF readers: he features writers like Jake Berry, Larry Oberc and Gerry Reith

in this issue. (The Reith piece, incidentally, is not one that I'd seen before, which makes it something of a rarity & worth the price of the entire issue, as it's also one of his better stories). Other than those, Rane Arroyo's haunting "Negro Laughter in the Night" and Dan Persons' "Richard Nixon Meets Ronald Reagan While Suspended Ten Feet in Front of the Face of the Statue of Liberty" are both eminently alternative, and fun to boot.

AMBASSADOR REPORT Aug. 1986 (Donation from PO Box 60068, Pasadena, CA 91106): This is published by ex-members of the Worldwide Church of God -- you know, the folks who publish PLAIN TRUTH. You might think that they have little to talk about now that Herbie Armstrong has kicked the bucket, but you'd be wrong -- there are as many interesting goings-on as ever in the church, as people jockey for leadership and the WCG attempts to hang on to disillusioned members. This issue is particularly useful, featuring a history of the church and its various prophecies of the time of Tribulations.

AMERICAN FORUM Vol. 3 #84 (\$3.95/7 issues from PO Box 261, Stn. E, Staten Island, NY 10302): Strange stuff. I've been getting AF for years and I'm still not sure what the editor is up to, other than trying to make people think, or at least ponder. Contents vary wildly from issue to issue -- one time he'll be off on some libertarian kick, another time porno and sex will prevail, a third drugs might be the topic. Then again, street drag racing, music and astrology have all been known to creep in. Absolutely unpredictable -- except for the prediction that it will continue to upset a lot of people with a bad attitude and willingness to publish blunt stuff.

AMIGOS DE CASA MARIANELLA Vol. 1 #4 (On Request from 821 Gunter St., Austin, TX 78702): "A volunteer organization set up to assist refugees from Central America...a project of the Austin Interfaith Task Force for Central American Refugees". This one reports the statistics on asylum cases, describes the conditions in Central America & what's being done about it, and serves as a source of news on the sanctuary movement. They're interested in receiving donations to help counsel & feed refugees, of course.

AMNESTY ACTION Summer 1986 (Amnesty International USA, 322 Eighth Ave., New York, NY 10001): Amnesty International is of course a group which seeks to prevent, discover and remedy human rights abuses worldwide. This tabloid is sent to supporters to alert them to what is going on and ask for help in letter-writing campaigns and other actions.

ANCHOR (On request from Haven of Rest, PO Box 2031, Hollywood, CA 90078): A booklet of spiritual thoughts, one for each day of the month. Each one gives a Bible reading, a separate Bible verse, a modern-language lesson or parable to be learned, and a suggested prayer for the day. Sort of a road map to spirituality. I wonder what God thinks of getting 2000 identical prayers for wisdom on the same day? Does it work the same way as a Senator getting 2000 anti-drug letters?

THE ANDERSON VALLEY ADVERTISER Vol. 30 #51 (\$20/yr from PO Box 459, Boonville, CA 95415): From Northern California's Mendocino County. It is very nearly a Real Newspaper, publishing legal notices and a Mike Royko column, but it has smartass letters and an otherwise personal feel that bring it down a notch or two, closer to our level. Not, I would say, part of the underground, but part of the alternative. The news is of mostly local interest.

unless you used to live there.

ANGELTREAD (\$2.20 from T.W. Phillips, 102 S. Second #114, Grayville, IL 62844): A short literary zine. This is the "Special Angel Issue", featuring photos of a batch of angels on cemetery monuments and a guide to poetry featuring angels. There are also two poems and a very short story, none of which spoke to me. A strikeout.

THE ANIMALS' AGENDA Dec. 1986 (\$2 from PO Box 5234, Westport, CT 06881): These folks have gone to a slick cover and interior -- is that why they stopped trading with me? This is sort of mainstream animal welfare stuff, with articles on the treatment of animals at Charles River Breeding Labs and Gillette and plenty of stuff on legislative attempts to halt the abuses. There is also Tom Regan on "the Emerging Global Ethic" and a section on nuclear war as an animal rights concern.

ANTI-MEDIA Dec. 1986 (\$1 from Zeno, 819 Haggett, GR-10, Seattle, WA 98195-0001): A zine for commie anarchist vegetarian punks from hell, and their friends. Actually, for someone trying to destroy the system, Zeno is pretty laid back. A-M consists for the most part of press clippings on the issues of the day along with snide commentary, but there are other odds and ends. This ish Zeno gives addressees and phone numbers for a bunch of big capitalist companies, in case you want to cause them any trouble. I think he may be working towards a "boycott money" stance and just hasn't realized it yet.

APA-EROS #6 (SASE & State over 18 for sample from Sylvia, PO Box 759, Veneta, OR 97487): This is an apa that is devoted mainly to sex and love in their many variations. Some people write about technique, others write erotica, others cross the line (or nearly so) into porno, as things are unedited. AIDS, VD, rape, touching, caring and sharing have all been discussed. Several serialized stories have been running as well, portraying sexual utopias. For all desires and orientations, and surprisingly uninhibited.

APA-RENGA #5 (\$5 to join, from Tundra Wind, PO Box 429, Monte Rio, CA 95462): A renga is a particular form of Japanese verse, and here these poems are being written round-robin fashion by the various contributors. This might be called the alternate worlds school of poetry writing; as the various writers contribute without knowing of each other's plans the verses grow and branch like verbal trees. A fun pastime, and it might lead to an interesting chapbook or two in the future.

APA-TAROT 13 (Contact Rick Young, 5705 Elmer, N. Hollywood, CA 91601): Just what it says, an apa devoted to the study of Tarot cards and related practices. Some members do Tarot readings in their zines; some develop new layouts or print pictures of hard-to-find versions of the cards; most just chat and have a good time. I view this as a successful exercise in community-building. If you're interested in divination of any sort, send a buck or two for a sample copy and see if you like the company.

ARRIBA Nov. 1986 (\$12/yr from Committee for Hispanic Arts and Research, PO Box 12865, Austin, TX 78711): This tabloid features profiles of local Hispanic artists, happenings about town, and articles on Hispanic businesses. Did you know that Bacardi was the top Hispanic business in the United States?

ARTPOLICE Oct. 1986 (\$3 from 3131 First Ave. S. Minneapolis, MN 55408): What's going on here? Damned if I know. The Artpolice collective of artists has been in hot water in Minneapolis lately

for a show alleged to have antisemitic, sexist and otherwise disgusting imagery. Well, that's certainly one way to interpret their works; another is to say that their subconscious is putting strange stuff on the page. They probably wouldn't agree with this either. Their magazine is sort of like a comic strip put together by drunken surrealists.

ASSOCIATION FOR ONTOLOGICAL ANARCHY COMMUNIQUE (c/o Autonomedia, PO Box 568, Brooklyn, NY 11211): "I appreciate getting interesting mail, not just requests for my flyers from bobbies with nothing better to do than flood the mails with their unrealized desires", says author Hakim Bey, which I interpret to mean that these are free to the Right People. If you can get 'em, do so, because the AOA stands in opposition to almost everything: the church, the atheists, the bomb, the anti-nukers, and even Lite Beer. Strange and confusing ruminations from the mind of the man who wrote CHAOS. Also catch the plans for a convention of weird folks on the Astral Plane some time this summer.

ASTRAL AVENUE #3 (SASE (?) from Paul Di Filippo, 2 Poplar St., Providence, RI 02906): A sfzine, I guess. I'm made less certain by the fact that most of Paul's writing revolves around writing, specifically the writing of SF. This is most untraditional. There's an analysis of an asinine thing Lester Del Rey said ten years ago, a short skit featuring Bob Heinlein and Isaac Asimov, and reader's responses to a previous issue apparently slagging S. King.

THE AUREA FLAMMA Feb. 1987 (\$1 from OTB, PO Box 1219, Corpus Christi, TX 78403): I hasten to point out to the New Yorkers among my readers that this "Journal of Practical Magick and the Occult Sciences" originates not from the Off-Track Betting folks but from the Ordo Templi Baphe-Metis, a relatively new occult/Thelemic group. New they may be, but not unambitious or uninformed. This issue has news of interest to magickians on a couple of different groups, a longish article on Gematria, Tarot and the Genesis myth, and (just to keep things light) an advice column written by one Nasty Nergal. If you ask, they'll also send you an application to join their Order. If there is anyone out there half as fascinated by the teachings of Aleister Crowley as I am, I don't think you can afford to be without this -- not that they are Crowley clones, but they're clearly working in the same corner of the woods.

BABUSHKIN'S DIGEST Vol. 2 #10 (Donation from L. Bush, PO Box 128, Rosendale, NY 12472): I might tag this as Post-Jewish Angst, but I suspect that I wouldn't know what I was talking about. There is a strain of Jewish humor running through this one, but there are also NY TIMES headlines for the year 2000, readers' letters, and a 100 foot pizza. Changeup humor abounds, with the next page as likely to be a pie in the face as an elephant joke. Try it, you might like it, even if I can't describe it.

BACK TO 15HEAD (Trade only from Tom Wilson, 3 Appian Way, Allston, MA 02134): A small mail-art rag that seems expressly designed to promote evestrain through the use of Moire patterns as backdrops. Op art swirls around impulses of mass junk from the modern world. Pocket sized for easier smuggling into cultural institutions.

BAD NEWZ #4 (\$1.50 from Artists & Writers Underground, c/o Sarris Bookmarketing, 125 E. 23rd St., #300, New York, NY 10010): These people are working on expanding the punk culture to encompass more than just music and scribbled drawings. The emphasis here is on short stories and poetry that

still get across the punk ethic, but there are also comics and collages and some interviews (this time The Dickies spout off something awful) and even social commentary. New York obviously has a lively punk community these days, and in fact this "Punkture" may be the trendsetter of the future. I doubt that the proponents would like that, though.

THE BAG #15 (SASE (?) from John Shephard, 1223 Washington, Kalamazoo, MI 49001): A double-sheet emanation from a raving lunatic. Well, not raving, he seems to have retained a sense of grammar and style, and the record reviews still make sense, but the little story fragments are just plain strange.

THE BALTIMORE MUSIC REVIEW #6 (50¢ (?) from PO Box 33398, Baltimore, MD 21218): "A showcase for recorded music by musicians in and around the Baltimore area", this one knows what it's doing and does it well. The reviews are critical in the best sense of the word. This issue also features an interview with Red Tape.

BANANA REPUBLIC CATALOG #31 (\$1 from PO Box 7737, San Francisco, CA 94120): Hey, they may be for Yuppies but they make good stuff. In case you haven't heard yet, BR sells clothing sort of loosely based on safari wear. The prices are no bargain (just fair), but the quality is excellent. I am seldom seen out of the house without my BR vest, and I don't care who knows it.

BANG! #14 (\$1 from Rocco Cipollone, 77 Newbern Ave., Medford, MA 02155): As I look at BANG! and FACTSHEET FIVE these days, and see how we've grown since that first review I wrote of RoOcco's zine years ago, I can't help but wonder who is taking our place on the super-low end of the zine spectrum. The format here is the same as ever -- article/interview -- but the groups are getting hotter (Sonic Youth, Soul Asylum, Replacements, many more). BANG! has improved in looks as in content, with the photos getting better and better and the typesetting really helping out. Not a big enough success to kiss off its original audience, BANG! is still aimed at packing a lot of stuff into a reasonably-sized package.

THE BARD WEEKLY Vol. 5 #13 (SASE (?) from J. Moske, PO Box 835, Annandale, NY 12504): Bard College, that is. Apparently this is an attempt to wake people up, or at least shake them up, so that they are in a position to consider new political ideas when they come along. It's difficult to tell from one issue, but a sort of primordial leftness is in the air.

BASIC CHOICES, INC. (1023 Drake St., Madison, WI 53715-1609): This "Midwest Center for Clarifying Political and Social Options" has a batch of papers on adult education and related topics available (and I'm sure they'd send you a list for an SASE). The one I'm looking at today is "Really Creative Conferences (\$2), a listing of fiction in which conferences play a part. They have summaries of 27 such stories, from SF to Borges to a 12th century Persian fable. The idea is to interject new ideas into deadly boring conferences that are held today.

BETTER THAN NOTHING #2 (\$1 (?) from 312 S. Coler, Urbana, IL 61801): A new pfanzone on the Urbana-Champaign music scene (college town, y'know). Local shows, local ads, local reviews. This one is just starting out, and doesn't make much of an impression yet, but they're trying. I think we need more locally-oriented zines and not more national monsters anyhow.

BEYOND #6 (\$4.50 from Other Worlds Books, PO Box 1124, Fair Lawn, NJ 07410): A zine that publishes

SF and fantasy by new and aspiring writers. I don't see any names I recognize in these 40 pages except for the ubiquitous Don Webb, who has a rather minor piece in this issue. Of the other stories, James William Holzer's "Sesquicentennial" is an almost-cyberpunk, confusingly-faceted vampire story that I took a shine to and Paul Curtis' "My Lady of the Java" is a cute little piece on household appliances in a confusing world. Not bad overall.

BEYOND AVALON Vol. 1 #4 (\$2 from 93 Jackson Ave., Bridgeport, CT 06606): A relatively new psychic journal that is packing a lot into its pages rather than going for gloss and ads for Ouija boards. This time around there's an article on the use of psi in the stock market, more news from the Seth energies, and another piece on lucid dreaming. Also features book reviews and an editorial from a channeled entity.

BIBLE-SCIENCE NEWSLETTER Vol. 24 #12 (\$12/yr from 2911 E. 42nd St., Minneapolis, MN 55406): Don't take the "science" in that title too seriously. These people may even have deluded themselves into believing it's science to defend Creationism, but I'm certainly not convinced. Good for a laugh once in a while, but how many "Darwin was wrong" or "Search for Noah's Ark" articles can you read before the joke loses its punch?

BIG APPLE NEWS (SASE from JAKEel, PO Box 20024, New York, NY 10025-9992): This is a "Big Mail". That means it is a sheet full of little ads, all offering fantastic offers that you can write away too (and, incidentally, you too can reach some phenomenal number of people for three bucks). "Opportunity for Financial Independence", "Jump Start your Car Without Cables" and "Distributors Wanted for New Game" are just three of the exciting offers here.

THE BIG TAKEOVER #21 (80¢ from Jack Rabid, 249 Eldridge St., Box 14, New York, NY 10002): BT has changed a bit with this issue -- better proofreading, more personal writing -- but the massive amounts of music reviews that are its heart keep on beating. Jack still, I believe, reviews everything he sees or hears, and he sees and hears one hell of a lot, as you'll find out in these pages of fine print. The opinions are blunt and forthright, but backed up with enough facts to allow the reader to judge for himself, if not convinced that Jack Rabid is God. I like the new look, and hope it's even more successful than it already is.

BING PONG IN SLAPIMALL CATFISH (\$1.50 from Jay Harber, 626 Paddock Ln., Libertyville, IL 60048): As Jay writes, this has "lain dormant for over 20 years". It's about 15 pages of collages made up of black crayon drawings and pictures clipped from magazines. If you didn't tell people it was done by a little kid, I'll bet you could get any number of prestigious mailart zines to publish this stuff. To the rest of us, this is just a curiosity.

BITCH #14 (\$1.75 from San Jose Face, 478 W. Hamilton Ave. #164, Campbell, CA 95008): "The Women's Rock Magazine With Bite", it says on the cover. Tell that to my average reader and you'll probably get told about Joan Jett and perhaps the Bangles. Well, they're in here, but so are a lot of other women, like Girls Next Door and Malibu Barbie. The coverage is much more than record reviews, and gets deep into questions of what it is to be a woman rocker. This issue has pro & con on "Sid and Nancy", with neither view resembling the superficial reviews I've seen elsewhere.

BLACK MARKET #6 (\$2 from 405 W. Washington St. #212, San Diego, CA 92103): BM is growing to an

awesome size, proving that there is indeed life in San Diego. This is a pfanzone for those who are not faint of heart; this issue spotlights the Ramones and Motorhead among many others. Also this time we have the results to their survey, notable in that all responses are printed in full, pages and pages of them. And of course there are the hardcore graphics and pages of violence-soaked comics that give BM much of its personality. For the rude and crude at heart.

BLACK STAR Vol. 4 #3 (\$5/yr from PO Box 3506, Tucson, AZ 85722): A "Quarterly Magazine of Arts & Anarchist Opinion", this tabloid is ruthless in portraying those it dislikes (e.g., dictators and nuns) as reprehensible fools. But there's much more than polemics here, as the opinion part comes through loud and clear and backed by reason. There are also touches of humor, as with the conversation with the U of Arizona librarian who won't allow this trash to be distributed in his library. My feeling on that is that if this is good enough for some toady to try to suppress, it's good enough to send away for.

BLANK EXPRESSION Dec. 1986 (\$6/6 issues from Wah Productions, 1642-24th Ave., San Francisco, CA 94122): Desktop publishing has its uses after all, and putting out this pfanzone is one of them. It's short but extremely attractive, and this issue leads off with interviews with Eugene Chadbourne, Robyn Hitchcock and Steve Wynn. Then there are a batch of live show reports and a batch of record reviews, neither batch so long as to be boring, and then comes the subscription blank. That's all, but it's enough to make for a pleasant little read.

BLASTING CAPS (\$1 (?) from Winged Monkeys Subclench, 381 NE 20 St., Miami, FL 33137): No points for figuring out that this is a SubGenial zine. The Winged Monkeys provide a barrage of clippings and images from the popular press, stirred together and seamlessly welded until you can't tell where the ax-murders lead off and the car advertisements begin. Sort of like cutting out all the filler news at the bottom of the page in your newspaper, dissolving it in alcohol, and mainlining it.

BLITZ #57 (\$1.75 from PO Box 48124, Los Angeles, CA 90048-0124): Still the "Rock and Roll Magazine For Thinking People" and still good, although the concentration on older groups and older sounds will drive some readers back into the nightclubs. Featured this issue are Rick Nelson, The Seeds (with Sky Saxon interview), The Beau Brummels and The Pandoras. Stories include detailed discographies, which are always thoroughly researched. BLITZ also reviews records, both new and classics. I like it.

THE BLOTTER #8 (\$2 from 233 Woodbine Ave., Toronto, ONT M4L 3P3, CANADA): This one has gone through various incarnations, but at least for the moment seems to have settled on being a literary zine. This is the "Success & Failure in the 80s" issue, crammed mainly with short short stories but bearing a little cynical art and an analytical look at materialism as well. There seems to be more failure than success here, and even the success is of an accidental and unsatisfactory nature. Then again, that might just be what the 80s are all about.

BLOW IT OFF #11 (50¢ from Scott Colburn, c/o Gravelvoice Records, PO Box 2271, Bloomington, IN 47402): A pfanzone that sticks to the essentials: record reviews (tons of them), an interview (Tar Babies) and fanzine reviews. What do you expect from the Cornbelt, impressionist paintings on the cover?

BLUEPRINT FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE Dec. 1986 (Donation from Institute of Human Relations, Loyola Box 12, New Orleans, LA 70118): A Jesuitical publication that concentrates a radical Catholic spotlight on social issues of the day. This time around it's work that gets the treatment, and the view is of course reformist rather than revolutionary, in accordance with Papal teachings on the subject. Still, these guys are a lot more insightful and rebellious than, say, the Evil Rightwing Church of your choice, and what they have to say bears some looking into.

BLUE SUEDE NEWS Vol. 1 #6 (\$1.50 from PO Box 25, Duvall, WA 98109): A rock and roll magazine for those whose hearts are still in 1960 or thereabouts. Most of this issue is taken up by reminiscences on the great shows in the Puget Sound area last summer: Everly Brothers, Chuck Berry, Jerry Lee Lewis, folks like that. That should give you some idea of the genre covered here. Nice production and intelligent writing, but their audience is probably getting a bit hard to find these days.

BRAVEAR Vol. 3 #5 (\$2 from PO Bx 3877, Berkeley, CA 94703): What to do when your computer eats most of your zine? Well, you can either slit your wrists and get out of the business or type it all in again, accumulating more material and thus putting out a very late but double-sized issue, which is the tack the BE folks took. I think they made the right decision, even though I may be getting just a teeny bit tired of Lydia Lunch interviews. But they also talk to Ten Tall Men, Das Damen and The Fall (among others). Then there are the politico-socio-commentary articles and the piles of music reviews, and of course the lovely slick paper production. A nice zine, and maybe they know how to use their Mac by now. Let's hope so.

BREITENBUSH NEWSLETTER Vol. V #1 (\$4/vr from PO Box 578, Detroit, OR 97342): Breitenbush seems to be a New Age community -- 26 full-time residents -- that hosts a hundred or so folks at a time for various retreats, thus paying (I surmise) the bills. Their offerings include spiritual stuff, massage, Tantra and cross-country skiing. The NEWSLETTER also discusses the events of the community and wider activist issues such as Big Mountain. It must be nice to be so actively involved at all times in building a new world.

BRICK PILLOW Vol. 13 #4 (\$2 cash from 528 Ranier Ave. #33, Renton, WA 98055): Apparently this has been published in secret for years and sent to a select mailing list, but now at last it's open to the world. Mr. Pillow prints a batch of newspaper clippings that support his theory that the world is a funny place, indulges in conversation in print with sundry refugees from THE CONNECTION and other sources, and reprints a few things that he liked from other people's writing. Interesting stuff, a pleasant editorial voice, and an engaging smartass libertarian philosophy.

BROUHAHA #1 (\$1 (?) from PO Box 152, Honolulu, HI 96810): "A limited edition cultural collage", this is somewhere on the border between mail art and apa. Music reviews, comics, art, music criticism, thoughts about the Hawaiian cultural scene, short stories and pieces thereof. This is at least in part another effort by the staff of NOVUS to broaden people's horizons. Maybe it will work; maybe it will degenerate into nothingness as have so many collaborations before it.

BUF-O December 1986 (TRADE ONLY from Klaus Haisch, 1729 E. Tabor St., Indianapolis, IN 46203): A zine for those who like old movies, comic strips

and so on. Klaus aims to amuse, mostly, and you never know what little goodies will show up: this time there is a Rodney Dangerfield with Moving Eyes as the back cover. Inside, in addition to Klaus' comments on such great movies as ZORRO, THE GAY BLADE and SPLASH, there are comics from RK Sloane and Steve Willis. But remember: the print run is low, and if you write, you probably won't get this particular issue. I'm sure the next one will be just as good if you care to take a chance on it.

BULLETIN Vol. 12 #4 (\$8/yr from Ontario LP, 2086 Yonge St., Toronto, ONT M4S 2A3, CANADA): I suppose the Libertarians have probably been active in Canada for years, but this is the first sign of it I've seen. The articles are for the most part interchangeable with those you will see in the US -- the names of some of the agencies are different, but the Federal government is still the main villain. BULLETIN contains more new coverage than most state LP publications I've seen in this country, but it's harder for US readers to relate to Canadian union struggles, I suppose.

BUZZ #14 (\$1.50 from PO Box 3111, Albany, NY 12203): The local free music zine. Covers the local club scene, local and visiting bands, reviews music and so on. These folks also put out a cable TV show that I don't see because I'm too cheap to subscribe to cable. But if you have any videos for your band then send them right along. Plenty of photos and ads for the Albany hotspots (which seems a contradiction in terms just at the moment).

BVI-PACIFICA Vol. II #2 (\$2 from Yael Dragwyla, PO Box 1548, Goleta, CA 93116-1548): If the BVI Group produces no other lasting product it will still have been worth the effort if BVI-P survives. Unbeknownst to most beings in the Multiverse, Yael has been quietly collecting a stable of rogue SubGenii, Surrealists and other Subversives to turn loose on the world. Now people like Bob Black and Al Ackerman and Jake Berry and Gerry Reith (even though he's DEAD) are contributing to this effort. A mixture of magick and "Bob" that will turn your brains into silly putty and destroy your throat lining with laughter.

THE CALENDAR (\$24/yr from PO Box 15070, San Antonio, TX 78212): It doesn't come right out and say so anywhere (it doesn't have to), but this is a tabloid paper for the local gay and lesbian market. The emphasis is mainly cultural, with book reviews and Halloween parties taking up much of this issue (though that may be just as a result of the timing of this issue). There are also articles on local organizations and some coverage of wider news of interest.

CALENDARS

Another topic I wouldn't have expected to find in FF when I started the darned thing, but it seems that I get a few each year.

1987 (\$1 from Freddie Baer, 534 Texas St., San Francisco, CA 94107): Well, what else do you call a calendar? This one is a joint project of a dozen different artists; Freddie is responsible for the stark August collage depicting nuclear madness. In fact, most of the artists here are making an implicit plea for sanity, and unlike whatever you can pick up at the local drugstore, this is a calendar with heart. They may be all gone by the time you write, but I'm sure Freddie will send you something for that buck, perhaps the haunting excerpts from BEAUTIFUL LOSERS by Leonard Cohen which are also illustrated with Baer collages. And

artists should know that she's organizing another group calendar project for next year; write if you're intrigued.
BERZERKELEY COMIX 1987 CALENDAR (\$1 from Twisted Image, 1630 University Ave. #26, Berkeley, CA 94703): 25 comic strips from Ace Backwards, man about town on the Bay, flanked by monthly calendars so as to provide an excuse for their collection. You've seen Mr. Backwards' work here, so you know it's good. And by the way, the strip is available to nonprofit zine editors for an SASE, if any of you editors need something new and funny to print.

CANCER #4 (\$1.25 from 4222 Naugle Dr., Fairlawn, NJ 07410): Punk and politics do mix, judging by this zine. Lots of skulls and some thoughts about slamdancing are side by side with anti-vivisection literature and incitements to vegetarianism. No doubt some people will dismiss it all as youthful rebellion, and at times the connection is hard to see between music and activism, but I think it is present.

CAN WE NEWSLETTER #24 (\$1 (?) from PO Box 2152, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814): The monthly newsletter of the Citizens Against Nuclear Weapons and Extermination. They work on a grassroots level, seeking to publicize the risks involved in the manufacture and transportation of nukes as well as their detonation. But soon they're planning to file a lawsuit challenging the use of Interstate highways for the transport of waste, so more activism may lie in the future.

CAPITAL BICYCLING CLUB NEWSLETTER Jan. 1987 (\$1 (?) from PO Box 642, Olympia, WA 98507): This particular zine is not intended for consumption outside of the Olympia area, but it should still be of interest to the bike riders among my readers. If nothing else, it shows what a bike club can be good for: scheduling group trips, learning from more experienced bikers, even political pressure for bike trails. Grassroots organization that is refreshingly different.

CARIBBEAN NEWSLETTER Jan. 1987 (\$1 from Friends For Jamaica, PO Box 20392, Cathedral Finance Stn., New York, NY 10025): Yes, there is news in the Caribbean, and if you search long and hard you can find it -- or you can subscribe to CN and find out what's going on in this politically important region, from Belize to Montserrat. This issue has extensive coverage of the Bishop murder trial in Grenada (yes, the US puppet government is working on eliminating those nasty revolutionaries) and includes offers of much documentation that has not appeared in the US press. It's interesting how the Left has stopped talking about Grenada altogether although the climax of the game is only now arriving.

CATHOLIC EYE #39 (\$25/yr from NCCL, 150 E. 35th St., New York, NY 10016): That's the National Committee of Catholic Laymen, Inc., and this is quite simply a four-page Roman Catholic gossip column. They talk about the dreadful trends in modern society, and deal heavily with all the latest news of the church, particularly those horrid liberal bishops flaunting the Pope's authority. I find it amusing and interesting, and I'm not even of the faith.

CEREBRAL DISCOURSE (SASE from PO Box 95455, Seattle, WA 98145): These guys haven't come out with anything major in a while but they deserve a mention anyhow. This PO Box houses a batch of folks

with strange names like Phlegm Pets and Burnt Raisins, who specialize in producing collages and surreal art. Sometimes they put together a publication, sometimes they just bombard me with enigmatic images. If you're prepared for a similar surreal mortar attack, drop 'em a line.

CHARACTER DISORDER #1 (\$4 from Art Works, PO Box 1156, Brattleboro, VT 05301): Art Works is part of the "Social Artists' Reality Empire, which is "a non-profit organization that promotes art for fun, sends mail art, gives supplies to artists and books to the local public library." This is a nice collection of mail art from all over, printed on heavy stock and giving contact addresses for the dozens of artists represented. A very good selection, with some big names and some unknowns (at least to me), a variety of themes, and some messages that even the non-mail artist can make out. Also contains some brief prose explanation of what it's all about.

CHEMICAL IMBALANCE #4 (\$2.50 from Mike McGonigal, Brittany Hall, 55 E. 10th St., New York, NY 10003): First the bad news: a few parts of the computer print here are terrible (but then, people who publish flammable fanzines shouldn't light matches). Now, the good news: CI is a great pfanzine. The price of this ish is a buck higher than usual, but for that buck you get a 7" EP (NOT a flexi -- real vinyl) with unreleased music from Sonic Youth, The Chant (best cut), June Brides and Borken Talent. In the written portion are art from Harvey Pekar and Matt Howarth, Interviews with Sonic Youth and Great Plains, and poetry and art. Best interview title of the new year: "Please Don't Eat the PsychoDaisies". You'd pay this much for the record alone, and you'd be making the right decision.

CHRISTIAN CRUSADE NEWSPAPER Vol. 33 #9 (On Request from PO Box 977, Tulsa, OK 74102): This is the tabloid published by Billy James Hargis, one of the lesser luminaries on the religious right. He writes this issue about terrorism, abortion, and the evil Russian empire. So with all these horrible things going on in the world, what are readers to pray for? Friends, Billy James needs a satellite transmitter for his TV station, and it's up to your prayers to get it for him. And it wouldn't hurt if you sent a few bucks just in case the Lord doesn't get the message. Too bad there aren't any more Skylabs up there -- maybe the Lord would drop one on this jerk if he prayed hard enough for a satellite.

CHURCH & STATE Vol. 39 #9 (\$1 from 8120 Fenton St., Silver Spring, MD 20910): This comes from the Americans United for the Separation of Church and State, so you know which ax they are grinding. These people take a hard line to keep Creationism out of the classroom, creches out of city hall, and Federal money out of parochial schools. Good coverage of the news here, but not much opportunity to make up your own mind.

CIRCLE OF LIGHT Jan. 1987 (\$15/yr from PO Box 901732, Dallas, TX 75390-1732): The New Age has come to Dallas. This "magazine of Emerging Ideas and Current Issues" focuses each issue on a different topic. The title of this one is "Being at Peace", and although they do endorse the Hundredth Monkey nonsense they also provide information about and contact addresses for a good number of grassroots peace initiatives. There are also the expected pages of ads for wellness centers, Rolfing, massage therapy and so on. Just as all libertarian businesses seem to be printshops, all New Age businesses seem to be medical.

CIRCULAR (50¢ (?) from 747 Niagara Ave., San

Francisco, CA 94112): A zine of photographs from ordinary life, brief flurries of writing, and other flotsam of contemporary culture. Not quite a mail art zine, this is more personal and less bizarre, and bears watching for the future.

CITIZENS FOR MUSICAL LIBERTY NEWSLETTER #2 (SASE (?) from 3942 Heritage Hill, San Antonio, TX 78247): As most of you probably already know, the city of San Antonio has taken steps to resist rock concerts, notable corrupters of youth. This single-sheeter comes out of a youth pressure group formed to combat that trend. Unfortunately, the substantive issues really aren't discussed -- that's left for the public meetings, I guess. Most of the content here is just ranting about how the politicians are screwing up, which may be fun but isn't very interesting.

CLANDESTINE CONFIDENTIAL Vol. 3 #4 (\$10/yr from Gerry L. Dexter, RR4, Box 110, Lake Geneva, WI 53147): This deals with clandestine radio stations, and apparently only with those trying to help overthrow unpopular regimes. (No pirate radio here). The style is quite crisp and informative, with times and frequencies and speculations about production and funding.

CLOTHED WITH THE SUN Vol. 6 #2 (\$25/yr from Naturist Society, PO Box 132, Oshkosh, WI 54902): This issue of the "Quarterly Journal of Clothes-Optional Living" features a cover photo of Ed Meese standing in front of a nekkid lady (a sculpture, that is). Inside, there is some stuff about the joys of living without clothes and some stuff on Desmond Morris' latest book, BODY WATCHING. Unfortunately there is also extensive coverage (about half of the 88 pages here) of "Citizen Actions Against Porn", heavily featuring the antics of Ms. Nikki Craft, who I consider a raging lunatic. Perhaps it's necessary for nudists & naturists to distance themselves from girlie magazines, but surely this is overkill.

THE COLLECTIVE NETWORKER NEWSLETTER #104 (\$1 from PO Box 912, San Francisco, CA 94101): The Sixties are not yet completely dead -- this newsletter is for people who want communal living arrangements that amount to more than just roommates. Naturally, this sort of thing is written by insiders, so plenty of expertise on solving or avoiding problems and pitfalls is brought to bear. CNN also features a calendar of events in the Bay Area and ads for those trying to form new collectives. Although the root theme is collective housing, larger social issues have a way of popping up here.

COLTSFOOT Vol. VII #6 (\$1.50 from James Troy, Rte. 1, Box 313A, Shipman, VA 22971): What are weeds good for? Although they wouldn't state the question in precisely those terms, that is what readers of COLTSFOOT are interested in. It's a journal discussing wild plants, whether edible (like wild grass seeds) or medicinal (like American spikenard). Besides articles directly on gathering and using plants, there are reviews of many books on the market, and information about what might be unsafe to the novice. There's also a pleasant background of concern for leaving Nature in good shape when you're done which I find quite engaging.

COMMON FUTURES #6 (£9/yr from Future Studies Centre, Birmingham Settlement, 318 Summer Lane, Birmingham B19 3RL, UK): Looks to be social and environmental futurism by those not in power. Ideas on new ways of combating unemployment and technology training for women -- fairly standard futurist fare -- rub elbows with a review of Bob Black's ABOLITION OF WORK. A lot of this seems more geared to

conditions in Britain than what I see in America, but any source of ideas in a storm. The article on the tension between community development and economic development is quite good.

THE CONSTITUTION Oct. 1986 (National Center for Constitutional Studies, PO Box 37110, Washington, DC 20013): They say you should write for price information, which is a bit odd, but none is given in these 36 high-quality pages. Someone is pouring a lot of money into this journal which is basically a conservative mouthpiece, hiding behind a veneer of studying the US Constitution. The tipoff to their agenda is the "How Did Your Congressman Vote?" section, which ends up giving goof grades to folks like Jesse Helms and failing Ted Kennedy. There are other things besides conservative apologia, but they're on the level of high-school civics.

CONSUMER JUNK #3 (\$1.50 from Dick Hunton, 8 Central Ave., Ivanhoe, 3079 Melbourne, AUSTRALIA): Presumably that price is in Aussie bucks and it wouldn't hurt to send a buck or two extra to cover postage. This is a pfnzine from Down Under that gets into a lot of scenes that the US listener knows little about, not only Australian but also (at least in this issue) New Zealand and Japanese punk are covered. Music reviews, zine addresses, all the usual trappings but virtually no overlap with what you'll read about in the states. There's also some socially conscious stuff, Helen Caldicott, chemical warfare, that sort of thing. Plenty of reduced print and well worth the cost of importing.

CONTRAST #1 (\$2 from PO Box 10832, Beverly Hills, CA 90213): Typeset, slick cover, 56 pages...I don't understand how some of these pfnzines spring fullblown into reality with their first issue. I started out on ditto, fer crissake! And how did they get all the big name interviews: R.E.M., Alex Chilton, Midge Ure (ULTRAVOX)? Darned if I know how, but combine this with arty photographs and a sort of farthest out edge of pop sensibility, and you've got a possible winner. This won't appeal to the punks, but the articles and reviews may introduce some punks to the rock and pop set.

CORNERSTONE #78 (\$1.75 from Jesus People USA, 4707 N. Maiden, Chicago, IL 60640): A contemporary music zine for the contemporary CHristian. Naturally, there are other topics covered, like cocaine and families, but much of this is about the right sort of music. Full of bands like Rez that you won't hear about in the sorts of sleazy publications that you probably read, and it serves you right. There's an appeal to the Lord here, hidden in terms carefully chosen to appeal to wayward youth. I wonder if they use back-masking on their records?

THE COSMIC RAY Vol. 1 #1 (\$7.50/yr from Krudzna Ink, PO Box 5003, Greensboro, NC 27403): The new newsletter of the Cosmic Ray Deflection Society of North America Inc. It's a bit difficult to explain these folks, but they are trying to protect us from those deadly rays and also to make the world a funner place to be, while keeping their fingers on the pulse of the folk art that haunts the backwoods of America.

COUNTER CULTURE #1 (\$1 (?) from Sean Hill, 37 E. Hudson St., Dayton, OH 45405): Sean also publishes TIME WORM, a magazine for misfits that includes a small section on diners. Well, it used to include a small section on diners, until that section grew like Topsy to become a zine of its own. This whole thing is devoted to an appreciation of that American institution, the dining car. Pictures, reviews, a run-down on the companies that built them and much

more. Sean seems to have tapped a fertile archetype in the American subconscious, and I wish him luck with it.

CRITIQUE Vol. VI #3,4 (\$5 from PO Box 11451, Santa Rosa, CA 95406): The "Journal of Conspiracies and Metaphysics" is getting better-looking with every issue, even though it was already an imposing digest -- the cover has been redesigned and I think there are less typos than before. The contents are still the same potpourri of off-the-wall speculations, on things like the US funding of the Soviet Union, the downing of KAL 007 (destined to be the Kennedy assassination of the 80s, apparently) and the cult of Nazidom. This issue also has Laird Wilcox's excellently informed analysis of common characteristics of politically extremist writing and a few reprinted interviews with Robert Anton Wilson. Of great interest to anyone with an eye for the man behind the curtain, I regard CRITIQUE as an essential part of my library.

CULT COMIX #4 (50¢ from John E, PO Box 8312, Wichita, KS 67208): It's not all comics, in fact the major part of this issue is filled with an interview with an ex-Moonie. But there are some things to laugh at as well, particularly the back cover ad for Diet Christ and the depiction by D. Worden of one of Pope Alexander VI's banquets.

DADATA (SASE to PO Box 33, Stillwater, PA 17878): Another strange person who will fill your mail with cryptic pictures and scribbings. Sometimes the messages on these sheets are obvious, as with the hymn to READER'S DIGEST: "minions straight from Pleasantville, just like maggots on a roadkill" or the poster plug for THE ABOLITION OF WORK. Other missives, though, I find much more elusive, in that I'm never sure just what part of modern society they're indicting.

DAILY IMPULSE Vol. 2 #5 (\$5/yr from PO Box 90312, San Diego, CA 92109): If this isn't the southernmost anti-authoritarian newsletter in the country it must be close. They keep some traditional anarchist writers -- this time Malatesta takes a bow -- but much more of their concern is with modern life. This ranges from an analysis of family problems (with suggested resources) to coverage of the local punk music scene. Others have tried this form of outreach to the punks before; DI has stuck it out longer than most, and it looks like they might be getting some results.

THE DARTMOUTH REVIEW Vol. 7 #6 (\$25/yr from PO Box 343, Hanover, NH 03755): This is one of those new conservative campus tabloids. After reading it, I have three thoughts: (1) These guys write well and have a good store of devastating with; (2) They're a bunch of jerks; (3) I really hope that they're not representative of today's college students. Anyone who gets in bed with Jesse Helms should be treated with the utmost caution.

DAY-TIMERS 1987 CATALOG: (On request from PO Box 2368, Allentown, PA 18001): Probably of little or no interest to most of you but it is free. Day-Timers makes those little black calendar books that you always see sitting on the desks of rich and successful executives. Now you can find out how the pages are drawn up and just how much they cost. I might even use one myself if I didn't already owe allegiance to Harper House's Day Runner series.

DECENTRALIZE! #3 (\$1 from Carol Moore, Box 106, 632 Clovrdale, Los Angeles, CA 90036): Carol is trying to get people together to develop of "Non-Violent Radical Decentralist Strategy". Some of the people she's contacted are suspicious of too wide an attempt at coalition-building, but overall

the response from Greens, libertarians, bioregional freaks and so on has been positive. Mostly talk and no plans yet, but give things a few issues to settle down and see what happens.

DEJA VOODOO TRAIN #8 (\$1 (?) from Og Music, Box 182, Stn. F, Montreal, Quebec H3J 2L1, CANADA): A pfanzine devoted entirely to a single group, Deja Voodoo. I still don't know what these guys sound like -- maybe they spend too much on newsletters to afford promo copies. Anyhow, this one contains their next tour schedule and an announcement of a new LP.

DEMENTIA #1 (\$3 from Roger W. Reus, 9412 Huron Ave., Richmond, VA 23229): A new zine of horror fiction. I'm not much for the genre but there does seem to be an attempt here to do other than frighten the reader by describing a sudden scene of blood and gore. A couple of the single-page stories seem to work best, perhaps not as developed plots, but as novel shocks: Janet Fox's "Moment of Silence" and J.N. Williamson's "The Final Stages of the Creeping Crud" are very good. Also features David Bruce on the latest trends in horror fiction and W. Paul Ganley's thoughts on the state of the fantasy small press.

DE PROFUNDIS #179 (\$5/yr from LASFS, 11513 Burbank Blvd., N. Hollywood, CA 91601): The newszine of the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society has a new editor (Therri Moore has replaced Tim Merrigan) and a new look (photocopy rather than mimeo), but things are otherwise much the same as ever. DE PROF exists to report LASFS news and publish LASFS minutes, and that's about all it does, which makes it of little interest to anyone except for us expatriate LASFSians. Available for trade with "similar publications".

DEREGULATOR #6 (\$8/yr from PO Box 2755, Chapel Hill, NC 27515): Mainly libertarian ideas in a somewhat soft-sell tabloid format. There's no mistaking what they stand for, but they don't come right out on the front page saying "Smash the State!", which is porbably just as well. This issue discusses Irangate (will that still be an issue by the time you read this?) and the impeachment of Judge Claiborne, and features columns from Walter Williams and Lorne Strider. DEREG is getting better at a fast clip, and could be an outreach tool to reckon with very soon.

DIALOG Oct. 1986 (\$10/yr from DGA, PO Box 190712, Dallas, TX 75219): The monthly tabloid of the Dallas Gay Alliance. The general outlook is pretty heavily political activist, with AIDS and Gay Rights of course being the major issues of concern. But even so, they find time to play a little, even stooping so far as to print paper dolls in this issue.

DIALOGUE Nov. 1986 (\$7/yr from 916 Euterpe St., New Orleans, LA 70130): It's too bad that more cities don't have an alternative newsjournal such as this (or else it's too bad that I don't get copies). DIALOGUE is much smaller than, say, the Boston PHOENIX, and also more radical. This makes it more likely that people will read the darned thing, and more likely that they'll think about something important, like war resistance, nuclear power, Leonard Peltier, or just peace. DIALOGUE has covered all of these subjects and also prints Fat Freddy's Cat and a community calendar each issue.

THE DILLINGER RELIC 49 (\$1 from Arthur D. Hlavaty, 819 W. Markham Ave., Durham, NC 27701): Sayeth the deponent: "Apparently the religious Right believes that parents can be trusted to teach their children about sex, but not to pray, so the schools

must provide the latter, but not the former.)" That's a fair sample of his smartass but often incisive social analysis. Arthur also discusses sex, science fiction, football and roof cows, among a host of other subjects. Indeed, the whole world is but grist for his mill, and he keeps grinding away at the bastards.

DISCUSSION BULLETIN #21 (\$3/yr from PO Box 1564, Grand Rapids, MI 49501): This apa for "third-force" socialists (the DeLeonists and fellow travellers) is going strong and has expanded to 32 pages with this issue. People are fighting hotly over how much leadership will be required Come the Revolution, while others are still recounting the history of the Socialist Labor Party. In many ways, the discussions here are more down to earth than those in the anarchist press, as the SLP and allies are focused on changing the world rather than predicting paradise's characteristics.

DISSIDENT NEWS #21 (\$5/3 issues from PO Box 915, Stn. F, Toronto, ONT M4Y 2N9, CANADA): This tabloid is the latest incarnation of the Anti-Authoritarian News Network. A lot of this is sort of "How I spent my Summer Vacation", reporting on the Toronto folks' trip to Haymarket '86, Big Mountain and other fun places in the States. But there are also news stories dealing with Omori and Chernobyl, and an interesting analysis of our current mass culture as a dangerous cult.

DOKTOR BLOOD'S WEIRD WRESTLING #1 (\$3.50 from 11822-78 St., Edmonton, Alta. T5B 2J4, CANADA): A new zine that is long on high-quality photos but somewhat short on good writing or raison d'etre. Wrestling is definitely the focus here, with lots of lovely pictures of burly men attempting to rip limbs off one another. The writing suggests that there are a lot of Western Canadian wrestling inside jokes that I just don't get. Actually, for all I know about pro wrestling, they could be Albany New York wrestling jokes and I still wouldn't get them.

DOLLARS AND SENSE #118 (\$2 from 1 Summer St., Somerville, MA 02143): Economic news from a progressive socialist viewpoint. What that seems to mean is that union organizing is the prime topic of interest, followed by the drop in aid to the poorer sectors of our economy. Also coverage in this issue of the aftermath of the Phillipines revolution and keystroke monitoring.

DRAFT NOTICES Jan.-Feb. 1987 (\$5/yr from COMD, PO Box 15195, San Diego, CA 92115): It's good to see that there are people all over the place working to blow the whistle on the possible renewed draft. In this issue the Committee Opposed to Militarism and the Draft clue us all in on current proposals before Congress for "national service" a supposedly more palatable alternative to a draft. I urge you to fight against this if it gets serious -- I won't be able to afford to mail FF from Canada. Or from the slammer. Other evidences of the American spirit of militarism such as the recent miniseries "Amerika", also come in for analysis and abuse.

DRDF NEWSLETTER Nov./Dec. 1986 (On request from PO Box 33544, San Diego, CA 33544): The single-sheet update of the San Diego County Draft Resisters Defense Fund. They keep track of the trials (which have settled down to a very low simmer), monitor new legislation, and work on issues like equal access to high schools. I think they look on themselves as forming a network so that it will be in place when and if the shit really comes down again. If this intrigues you, get on their mailing list.

DR. BRAINO'S ROCK N' ROLL NEWS #1 (50¢ (?) from 731 Randolph Rd., Middletown, CT 06457): With a circulation of 2000 and a cover price of FREE, this is apparently intended to be a giveaway for the punk set. This first issue includes reviews slagging a few other fanzines and an interview with PUNK magazine editor John Holmstrom.

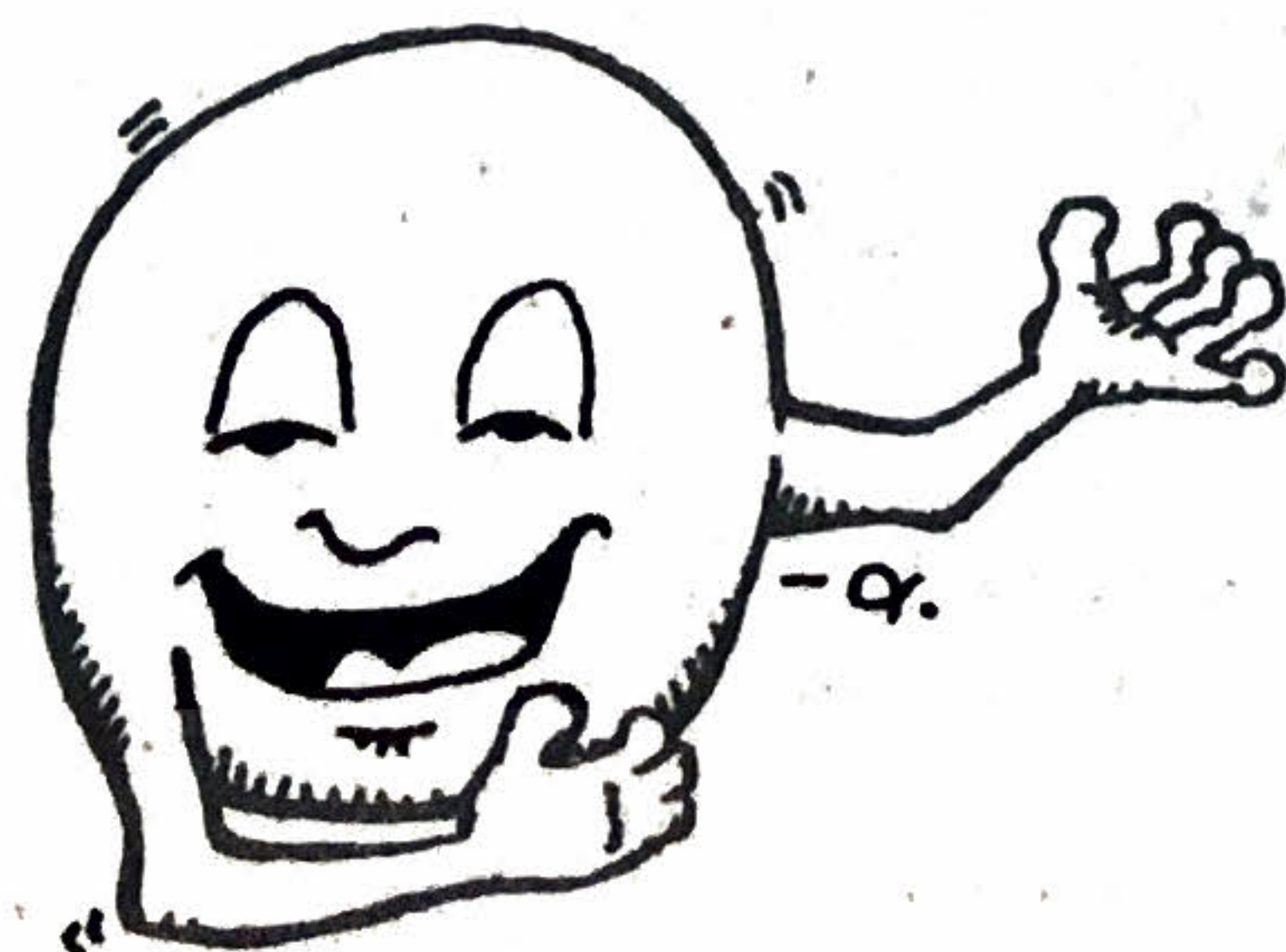
DR. SMITH #6 (\$2 (?) from Candy, 363 Queen St. East, Toronto, ONT M5A 1T2, CANADA): A pfanzine with no cover price but an awful lot of pages. Not all of them have to do with punk, as there are plenty of clippings from sleazy supermarket tabloids and the like (although most of them are at least music related). Photos of live shows, backstage with the Pandoras, JFA, 5th Column, and lots more here. Energetic.

THE DROOD REVIEW OF MYSTERY Vol. VI #9 (\$12/12 issues from PO Box 8872, Boston, MA 02114): This is the annual Christmas issue of this zine, and is replete with suggestions on which books to give people for the holidays. There is also a section of reviews of recently reissued classics, plus the usual short pieces on new books. DROOD is not too big a handful to get through at one sitting; what it offers is a forthright approach to the newest mysteries on the market, as well as current news from the industry.

DUMB #2 (50¢ (?) from TBS Publications, 2431 N. High #25, Columbus, OH 43202): A zine of ordinary writing that seems strngly influenced by CLOSEST PENGUINS (and in fact Denise Dee is one of the writers here). There's a strong thread of punk rock and rebellion running through many of these vignettes, and a substantial addition of art. The whole effect is a bit unsettling for some reason. This feels even more unfinished than CP used to. Maybe once that standard fades in my mind I will begin to appreciate this one more. In the meantime frustrated nontraditional writers should know that there is another outlet for their stuff.

THE DUPLEX PLANET #81 (\$1.25 from David Greenberger, PO Box 1230, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866): Is there such a thing as the wisdom of the ages? If so, this might be a good place to look. David talks to senior citizens -- well, actually, he asks them annoying questions ("Who is Mr. Ed? Where do good ideas come from?") and records the answers. The result is sometimes sublime, sometimes down-to-earth, and usually funny. Perhaps when you get a certain distance from the events of the day it's easier to let your mind cut loose with different answers than the norm.

DYSPEPSIA #1' (\$1.75 from Blatant Image, 65 Ingraham St., Bristol, CT 06010): Sort of a comics jam mail art thing. A little larger than minicomic size but with a lot more pages. #1 features contributions from Al Greenier, D. Worden, Luna Ticks, Steve Willis and others active enough to have had their art seen by this editor. Some send in almost linear strips, others just doodle away. A nice range of styles and good fun is had by all.



EDITIONS Catalog #736 (\$1 from Boiceville, NY 12412): These folks put out huge catalogs of used books about once a month, with everything from fiction to collector's bound sets of what-not to current anthropology books. The prices start around \$4, with lots available in the \$6-\$10 range, and the service is quick and good. The only problem I've encountered is finding the time to slog through their 8,000-book listings every month.

ELITIST ENNUI #41 (SASE from Alex McKale, 2010 Maple, Evanston, IL 60201): This is nominally a sfanzine since Alex is a sfan (and a physicist to boot) but if he wants to talk about the dangers of masturbation or the problems of extracting porno tapes from your broken VCR no one can stop him. Published for an apa and anyone else crazy enough to request it, EE is a compendium of wild and strange things that happen in this world. Also full of alleged humor which tends to be a bit smartass.

EMANCIPATION #69 (\$5/yr from AAA, PO Box 840, Benjamin Franklin Stn., Washington, DC 20044): The Anarchist Association of the Americas is still carrying on with their newsletter after being in business for 9 or 10 years -- phenomenally long for a radical zine. This issue is entirely devoted to the 50th anniversary of that Spanish Revolution, a topic which I for one have already heard far too much about. But I've spoken about this anarchist wallowing in the past elsewhere. At least the lead article here is by the ever-engaging Sam Dolgoff.

EMS (\$1.50 from Lee, PO Box 12504, Raleigh, NC 27605): The actual title of this zine is EAT MY SHIT, but don't use that on envelopes because there's a law against it, of all damned things. Really -- the editor is fighting this with the help of the ACLU but meanwhile, don't rock the boat. Interviews with Art Decco (publisher of TWISTED IMBALANCE) and Scratch Acid and with a couple of Marine Recruits; article on the local nuke plant and one on masturbation; poetry. That's not all that's here but it's a representative sample. No revolutionary rhetoric, but this is definitely a zine against the system.

EQUAL TIME #120 (\$1 from 711 W. Lake St. #504, Minneapolis, MN 55408): A tabloid magazine for gay men and lesbians. This issue reports on safe sex for lesbians, an underground gay rights group and its first action, and local gay cultural activities. Much of the news, in fact, is local or midwest, but there is some national coverage.

EUROCK #31 (\$2 from Archie Patterson, PO Box 13718, Portland, OR 97213): A pfanzine dedicated solely to European rock, with an emphasis on electronic, progressive and experimental sounds. Mainly interviews, with this issue talking to Gilbert Artman, Peter Frohmader, Pauline Strom, Michelle Musser and Lauri Paisley. Also reviews new releases here and abroad.

THE EVANGELIST Dec. 1986 (On Request from Jimmy Swaggart Ministries, PO Box 2550, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-2550): In this issue Brothuh Swaggart reveals that only Pentecostal Churches are the voice of God. Further, he sets himself up to distinguish the true Pentecostals from those who merely babble in tongues. It's sort of amusing to see this alleged protestant setting himself up as the new Pope. This is dangerous crackpot nonsense, and I encourage you to help drain his coffers by writing for free issues.

EXPRESSO TILT 5 (\$1.75 from 101 Chatham Ln., Newark, DE 19713): A magazine that takes modern mass media culture Too Far. This stuff is funny as all get out: new revelations from Coroner Thomas

Noguchi, Party tips for the boring host, sex advice from Ms. Ardor, and lots more. Check out "Blood and Pussy in the Wild West", a review of the latest wave of sleazy novels to hit the bookshelves. I rushed right out and bought six of them. The occasional article falls flat, but there are plenty of others to make up for it. Surely you'd like to hear from someone else who finds Ed McMahon to be hilarious?

EXQUISITE CORPSE Vol. 4 #5-8 (\$2.50 from English Dept., Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803): "A monthly of books and ideas", it says here, but what I find is letters, poems, and short stories. Oh yes, and book reviews and catfighting and calling other scholars nasty things. This is straight out of the ingrown world of academic literature, where the stories are crafted but not personal, where the happenings are distant and arty but not down to earth. I'll take CLOSEST PENGUINS or even VALLEY FEVER over this stuff any day, even if EC is able to afford typesetting & pretensions.

FACTS FOR ACTION Winter 1986 (\$4/yr from Christian Research, PO Box 385, Eureka Springs, AR 72632): Another newsletter from someone decrying Communism and Socialism in our public school, ranting about the IRS, drawing parallels between the Constitution and the Bible, hating homosexuals -- in short, from a right-wing extremist. Fortunately they seem more disgruntled than dangerous. This is the same sort of tone that hate literature displays but I can't identify any particular group being attacked, unless it's short-sighted bureaucrats and judges.

FAMOUS HARDCORE OF PUNKLAND #4 (\$1.25 from Craig Hill, PO Box 26684, San Jose, CA 95159): This issue of this pzfanzine presents the latest readers' poll results (among other things, Craig's audience is only 60% carnivore. I would have expected more from hardcore types). Also interviews with 76% Uncertain and Rest In Pieces, Punkette of the Month centerfold and a Negative Approach retrospective.

THE FAT MIKE COMIC BOOK. (\$2 & 6x9 SASE from Embassy of Planet Claire, PO Box 85807, Seattle, WA 98145): Fat Mike comics have appeared in a few pzfanzines, and now here's the whole life story of this globular punk. There are a few cute moments here and snide comments about the punk lifestyle, but for the most part this just attests to the ease of producing truly crummy artwork with a Macintosh computer.

FEMINIST BASEBALL #3 (\$1.50 from PO Box 9609, Seattle, WA 98109): Editor Jeff Smith took an innovative approach to getting this issue out as it became later and later: he filled the pages up with his mail. This makes for some strange reading if you don't know the people involved (I recognized two, which is probably more than you will). But at least he has interesting correspondents, so it's not a total loss. Also has movie and music reviews.

FIFTH ESTATE Fall 1986 (50¢ from PO Box 02548, Detroit, MI 48202): You really ought to send more than that for a sample if you expect them to mail you the damned thing, as it is a somewhat bulky tabloid. As usual the FE folks are fighting on a variety of fronts, with a lot of space being given in this issue to answering the recent critique of their project by Dan Todd. There's also an article by John Zerzan "The Case Against Art", an analysis of the current drug-o-mania, and the usual flotsam and jetsam of news from around the anarchist movement.

FIGHTIN' GUYS #2 (25¢ & a stamp from Not Available Comics, PO Box 5803, Raleigh, NC 27650):

Part of a series of minicomics featuring the League of Locals, a group of ordinary-seeming folks who become ordinary-seeming superheroes. Central in this episode are the further problems of Dadman and Sonboy, but the Mom Thing has showed up and all heck will break loose soon.

FILE 770:60 (\$4/5 issues from Mike Glycer, 5828 Woodman Ave. #2, Van Nuys, CA 91401): I only see this sfzine occasionally since Mike doesn't trade; a friend sent me this copy. Mike is still putting out a good selection of sfannish news, with convention reports, thoughts on the Hugos (this issue is from August), Ted White's arrest, fan reactions to the Challenger disaster, and so on. If I was (a) still involved with sfandom and (b) not so cheap, I'd certainly subscribe.

FLOATING UNIVERSITY #6 (SASE from 12028 Venice Blvd. #4-263, Mar Vista, CA 90066-3810): This is an ambitious idea that hasn't yet taken off, but neither has it died. FLUN is intended to be an aapzine for those who wish to teach and learn, the idea being that the readers will teach courses via the apa, starting with basics and getting more complex as issues pass. Only problem is that they haven't yet found a lot of teachers, although offers to teach and requests for courses are starting to come in. I'd guess the critical mass for this is around 50 people, which means they only need to about double in size before it starts taking off. Here's hoping.

FOCUS Vol. 9 #2 (\$4/yr from USCFGDR, 130 E. 16th St., New York, NY 10003): The alphabet soup stands for "U.S. Committee for Firendship with the German Democratic Republic". That's East Germany, if you're still confused. Almost all of the newsletter is on cultural topics -- Brecht and so on -- with little or no mention of politics. The only outwardly peacenik slogan is the call to ban nuclear testing prominently displayed on the first page.

FOIST #5 (\$5/yr from PO Box 44, Penfield, NY 14526): FOIST is a "submissions oriented art collective", or what I have been calling a Mail Art Network, the visual equivalent of an apa. A mishmash of story fragments, poems, collages, photographs and drawings. There are lots of well-known outlaw artists here: John Bennett, Luke McGuff, Brendan deVallance, Blaster Al Ackerman, Bob Black and many more. Plenty of pages for your paltry money.

FOOD AND JUSTICE Nov. 1986 (\$5/yr from UFW, Old Highway 58, La Paz, CA 93570): Yes, the United Farm Workers publish a little digest. Most of it is repeated horror stories that imply (without baldly stating) that pesticide spraying on fields causes cancer. They may be sincere, or this may just be a propaganda effort to help the current grape boycott. Anyhow, this is definitely more PR than internal union writing.

FOOD FOR BIRDS, PEOPLE FOR PROFIT (from Mid-Coast Sub-Church of Paranoia, RFD 279, Rockland, ME 04841): This is sort of a SubGenius apa that comes out on an unpredictable schedule. About the only way to get a copy is to convince Yossarian, the dude in charge, that you're not some kind of Bobbie, and send him something useful, like rants, absurd artwork, or dead presidents. This is sort of the Politics issue, and a lot of it is screaming and hollering by people who claim that not only is the emperor not wearing any clothes, but neither is anyone else. And in Maine, that's quite a problem. If something here doesn't outrage you, you may be dead already.

FORCED EXPOSURE #11 (\$2.50 from PO Box 1611, Waltham, MA 02254): I don't know how they keep it

up, but FE is definitely one of the major forces in pfanzinedom today. Each issue is a massive 100-page newsprint brick with hundreds of music reviews (mostly positive, which I think is a good thing -- nasty stuff may be fun to read but doesn't tell you much about the product), interviews (Butthole Surfers, Larry Wallis), an article by Richard Meltzer and reviews of porno movies. Something to offend everyone, and a letter column with the most abusive editorial policies in the business. Awesome.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

I thought it might make sense to put all of the stuff I can't really read (I can make out a bit of French and German, but don't have the time to puzzle through with a dictionary). Fortunately the pictures and format usually make it possible to take some guess at the contents.

EL DJARIDA #4 (from Idiot Press, Box 4536, Kalvakinnet, 7001 Trondheim, NORWAY): How long can you read Norwegian without cracking up? "Ja, slik var det før i tiden, da alt la pa grensen til det okkulte..." There is some English here (including a piece from Al Ackerman) but not enough for me to figure out what the slant of this tabloid is. I think they're in the mail art business, but I don't guarantee it.

ETHNISMO #39 (11 IRC's/yr from Uwe Joachim Moritz, Im RÖmerfeld 44, D-5180 Eschweiler, WEST GERMANY): This one is written in Esperanto -- fortunately the reader who sent it to me provided a translation of the headlines. Thus I can tell you that this is a journal on the problems of cultural minorities: Basques, Celts, Ukrainians and so on. This issue features lots of ETA coverage.

POQO 17 (IRC's (?) from Fernando Matamoros, Apartado 295, 20080 San Sebastian, SPAIN): Sort of a mail-art minicomic. Materials in French, Spanish and German. Seems to be about three people in a restaurant being attacked by word balloons.

STIC #3 (from Ronald Loots, Korte Leemstraat 38, 2000 Antwerpen HOLLAND): I'd say about \$1.50 if this was from the states, no guess for postage. Send a letter with IRCs if you're interested. Entirely in Dutch, this pfanzine seems to be about European groups only, with no articles on American imports. Some photos and comics.

THE FOUNDATION COMMENTATOR Vol. 13 #5 (On request from FBR, PO Box 499, Pasadena, CA 91102): The monthly publication of the Foundation for Biblical Research, which occasionally slips close to science fiction. The article on Adam's immortality, for example, suggests that he was originally hermaphroditic. Much of the stuff here is tamer, like the article on the breaking (or lack thereof) of Jesus' body, but the occasional gem is enough to make one wonder what else can be proved from the Bible.

FOUR-FIVE-ONE #2 (\$1 from PO Box 2374, Seattle, WA 98111): A broadsheet -- about three feet by two -- filled with crisp photographs and unpopular opinions. There's stuff on music and drugs, on why Yuppies are so pathetic, about how peace marchers and assorted other leftists are destroying society, and a couple of interviews, one with a communist activist and one with the "Rape Rock" band The Mentors. Abominably thought-provoking. I suspect that the editor will provoke criticism for not indicating which of the diverse views he agrees with, but I find the cognitive dissonance rather appealing.

FREE ACCESS #4 (\$1 from Karin Heidt, 5215

Decarie #3, Montreal, PQ H3W 3C2, CANADA): An energy-packed little pfanzine from the Great White North (with two feet of snow outside my window now, I doubt that it's much whiter there than here). Even if it weren't telegraphed by the letter from Gerry Hannah and the Men Against Violence Against Women, flyer the anarchist stance would come through here, just from the lively interview questions. They talk to D.O.A., N.R.G. and the intriguing Fail-Safe in this issue, along with reviewing some records. Good stuff.

THE FREEMAN Jan. 1987 (On Request from FEE, 30 South Broadway, Irvington-on-Hudson, NY 10533): The folks at the Foundation for Economic Education had a basic insight years ago and they've hung tenaciously to it ever since. Their idea is that the free market can cure all the ills of society, and each month they send out a zillion copies of this slick little digest filled with pro free market articles. After a while they all seem to be the same article with a different title, but if you haven't been presented with a vision of libertarianism yet, you might want to check this out for a year or so.

FREE PRESS NETWORK Vol. 5 #1 (\$2.50 from PO Box 15548, Columbus, OH 43215): The Free Press Association is an organization of libertarian journalists and writers, dedicated to the proposition that they are essential to a free society and should be treated with respect. This issue argues for the abolition of libel laws and reprints a Robert Lefevre editorial on writing about the government. Also news of the annual Mencken Awards.

THE FRINGE #4 (75¢ from James Fringe, PO Box 3107, Bellingham, WA 98227): Well, it's been a while since I saw an issue of this zine but it was worth the wait for the extensive John Crawford (Baboon Dooley cartoonist) interview. Lots of fanzine and music reviews (not so many as to be unwieldy, but not so few as to be skippable) rub elbows with a couple pages of live reviews (with pictures) and comics reviews. But how come James' zine is so neat when he rags me about picking on messy fanzines [see FF20 letters]?

FUNNY FACES #1 (50¢ from R.K. Sloane, 500 Montclair SE, Albuquerque, NM 87108): Yes, this minicomic does feature funny faces, or perhaps disgusting ones, depending on your point of view. Bits of hearts and other organs, stretching eyeballs, blood, guts and gore romp through these pages with cheerful abandon. No story line, just disconnected panels of grue.

F.U.T.U.R.E. Dec. 1986 (\$15/yr from PO Box 228, Butte, ND 58723): "Forming Unity Toward Ultimate Regenerative Evolution" is the tag-line here, and the contents vary all over the map but generally contain hope as a key ingredient. Technology, politics and metaphysics are seen not as oppressors but as tools that can be used, ju-jitsu style, to change the system which they support. The editors call for activism and hard work, rather than mysticism and naval-watching, as a means to change, so nuke power, environmentalism and suchlike concerns make frequent appearances in these pages.

FUZBRAINS #12 (\$1 from PO Box 2436, Worcester, MA 01613): A sixties-inspired pfanzine that sees plenty of evidence that rock is still alive and well even if the mainstream media is ignoring most of it. This may be the only zine I received this quarter with a serious and positive review of the Monkees tour. Also in this issue: The Del Fuegos, Creatures of Habit, Das Furlines and The Creeps, among others. The layout reverberates with psychedelia.

GAINESVILLE IGUANA Nov. 1986 (SASE (?) from CISPLA, PO Box 14712, Gainesville, FL 32604): Published by at least a part of the Committee in Solidarity with the People of Latin America, this is a calendar of events in the G'ville area. the purpose is to bring diverse social action groups together for greater results. Some of the groups listed besides CISPLA are Amnesty International and the NAACP. Also lists concerts, readings, Peace Fairs and the like.

GALACTIC CROSSROADS #3 (\$2 from Niles Hokkanen, PO Box 2352, Clarksburg, WV 26301): The title won't tip you off, but this is a pzfanzine for the mandolin players amongst us. As you might expect it has an entirely different feel from the zines for electric guitar aficionados. It's also very well put together. Each issue features interviews with musicians using the mandolin & related instruments, articles about how to play 'em, and music scored for the mandolin. The letters column is getting active and there are musicians' classifieds.

GAMING INTERNATIONAL Vol. 7 #6 (\$2.50 from PO Box 7418 Dept. H, Atlantic City, NJ 08404): A slick for boys who never quite grew up. They still play games, but now they have more money to bet on them. This issue features a system for picking the horses, an interview with promoter Don King, Mike Warren on beating your bookie, and an historical article on the gambling ships that used to be anchored off of Los Angeles.

GENERAL STRIKE #17 (44¢ postage from PO Box 23144, Knoxville, TN 37933-1144): A zine in the communist anarchist tradition combined with the silly surrealist tradition. Some thoughts on anarchy, local music report, comics and a longish interview with the zine's founder, who is leaving for greener pastures. He seems to be another of the anarchist burnouts disgusted by the futility of it all. With this change, I have no way of predicting what the zine will be like when next it comes out.

GENTLE ANARCHIST #13 (\$3/yr Cash/Stamps from PO Box 1313, Lawrence, KS 66044): These guys would probably be gentler if there wasn't so much shit in the world -- protest actions and prisoner resistance, for example, take up a batch of their space -- but on the whole this is a pretty laid-back bit of anarchy. Of particular interest here are the continuing development of their principles (unfortunately, I think they've missed something in their discussion of a healthy economy by not questioning whether a healthy long-term economy is even possible) and the article by Anne on gender dysmorphia.

GEORGE THE NEW WORLD ACTIVIST #1 (50¢ from PO Box 742, Severna Park, MD 21146): The New World Activists appear to be in favor of cold beer, loud music, and getting arrested at demonstrations. Skate pictures, beer facts, records for sale, and bestiality and exploding space shuttle humor.

GLITCH NEWS Dec. 1986 (\$7/yr from PO Box 4429, Austin, TX 78765-4429): I dunno why, but I get a real kick out of the quarter-page "Guitar of the Month" series here (this month: the 1982 Fender Lead III). This is the house zine of Glitch Records, and as you might expect, much of it is devoted to promoting Glitch artists and reporting Glitch plans. But there are also comics, local scene reports (and Austin has an active one) and a few other odds and ends.

GOOD WORD/BAD WORD #4 (\$1 from TBS Publications, 2431 N. High St. #25, Columbus, OH 43202): That buck will also get you the next thing published by TBS but you won't know what that is until it

arrives. This one is, as Randy says, literature with pictures for the kiddies. It's all sort of confusing, with short stories and poetry and collages intermixed like some sort of linguistic stew. Much local Ohio color.

GOSKY COMICS (\$2.75 from Dolphin-Moon Press, PO Box 22262, Baltimore, MD 21203): Strange stuff. It looks like they did some searching for this project, because the contributions are all funny and bizarre. Best bets: Jeff Nicholson's "Candid Comic", a self-referential tale; Edward Lee Bolman's "Hells Quakers on Wheels"; and Steve Willis' "Cold Fish Ladder", a possible origin story for Morty the Dog. There are half a dozen other bizarre strips here, and between them something is sure to harass your funny bone unmercifully.

THE GRABINSKI READER #1 (\$2.50 from Teawood Publications, PO Box 2398, New York, NY 10009): Stefan Grabinski was sort of the HP Lovecraft of Poland, but his works are practically unknown in this country. Now Miroslaw Lipinski is making new translations available at a reasonable price. The writing is somewhat baroque, but it does a great job of building up a suspenseful mood for the reader, culminatnig, as with Lovecraft, in the final line or even final words. Worth having a look at.

THE GRASSOMETER Oct. 1986 (\$12/yr from Starlite Entertainment, PO Box 56, Olustee, FL 32072-0056): "America's Bluegrass Indicator", this is an unambitious attempt to spread a bit of news about bluegrass music. Information on radio, band and artist doings and a Top 30 chart comprise the bulk of these six pages.

GREEN ACTION Vol. 3 #9 (\$10/yr from PO Box 37, Tempe, AZ 85281): The Green movement in the US is in a state of constant turmoil lately as various factions duke it out for the title of "greenest of all", but you won't guess that from reading this tabloid, which probably means that they're one of the combatants. Rather shallow looks at a batch of issues: anti-apartheid protests, the power of cooperation, basic Green philosophy, nuclear weapons and so on. If you want to get acquainted with the Greens, SYNTHESIS might be a better place to start.

GREEN ANARCHIST #13 (£7 for 10 issues from 19 Magdalen Rd., Oxford, OX41RP, ENGLAND): After reading this I'm not too sure what Green Anarchism is, but then neither (apparently) are the authors. The basic goal is stated as "small autonomous, self-sufficient villages, bringing regression of technology - no bomb, no depletion of resources, no industrial pollution, no industry" which it hink is just a tad ridiculous. But they cover all sorts of fine actions, from anti-vivisection raids to the festival at Stonehenge last year. They publish nice inflammatory centerfold posters attacking middle-class ideals. This issue also features the thoughts of Kropotkin and reviews of Anarchist music.

GRIP 26 (\$6 from Other Worlds Books, PO Box 1124, Fair Lawn, NJ 07410-1124): This is a zine full of STAR TREK fan fiction. Personally, I tend to think of ST (when I think of it at all) as the Television Show That Would Not Die, but there are a lot of other people who imprinted permanently on it. (Just look at the success of the ST movies if you don't believe me). 72 pages of stories about characters that are practically modern archetypes, doing all sorts of strange things in strange places but having good clean fun through it all.

GROUND ZERO Vol. 5 #1 (Donation from 16159 Clear Creek Rd. NW, Poulsbo, WA 98370): Living in the shadow of a Trident missile submarine base, these

people are trying to turn off the buildup of nuclear arms by moral suasion. They leaflet, they demonstrate, they engage in civil disobedience, and they publish this tabloid to try and reach more people. In this issue they argue that the Nuremburg principles of international law forbid the production of more nukes.

GRUB 62 (\$7/4 issues from Stuart Vickers, Dragonfly Farm, Lake St. Peter, ONT K0L 2K0, CANADA): This has some of the look of an apa, apparently being photocopied from a number of contributions. The general themes are living in harmony with the land and perhaps doing something to help out other people like those at Big Mountain. Also some thoughts on communities, a few short stories, and other what-not. Sort of pleasant but without any clear direction.

THE GUNRUNNER Vol. 2 #1 (\$10/yr from PO Box 327, Harrison, AR 72601): Kurt Saxon has been hanging around the Survivalist fringe for years, at least since he wrote THE POOR MAN'S JAMES BOND. This tabloid revolves loosely around the repair of older firearms (after all, modern weapons will wear out quickly Come the Collapse), but delves into a batch of other survivalist concerns. The lead article this time is about building a greenhouse good enough to get you through nuclear winter. Kurt also sells a great number of exotic weapons and books by mail. For responsible adults only.

HANDICAP NEWS Vol. 3 #1 (\$2 & SASE from Phyllis Burns, 3060 E. Bridge St. #342, Brighton, CO 80601): Information of interest on handicaps and disabilities of all sorts -- from crippling and deadly to mildly annoying -- culled from a wide range of sources. New treatments, drugs and devices, publications and so on are mentioned, along with contact addresses. Services get some play too. It's all wrapped up with a short column of essays and poetry.

THE HARDER THEY FALL #2 (\$1 from 456 Spadina Ave. 2nd Fl., Toronto, ONT M5T 2G8, CANADA): Sometimes I think Toronto is the anti-authoritarian center of the world. This tabloid brings in some new stuff that might appeal to a wider audience than traditional leftists: An interview with Phillip Berrigan and one with Jeffrey Masson, for example. There are also a lot of quickie news bits, a directory of local activist groups, and an emphasis on prison issues. My main wonder is whether they can successfully maintain this momentum in the future.

HARVEST Yule 1986 (\$10/yr from PO Box 228, S. Framingham, MA 01701): A pagan zine with a large enough staff to get variety from issue to issue. Besides the usual roundup of news of interest to pagans and fellow-travellers, this one holds articles on herb-use, reviews of various books, notes on a new tradition, and contacts for various festivals and zines. The editors are getting concerned with the rise of the religious right, with good reason. The question is, what can they do about it?

HATE LITERATURE

As usual, I wish to make it clear that I do not trade with or endorse any of the following publications. However, I think FF readers are adults and entitled to decide for themselves what to read, so I do list the things here for information.

Of course it's a judgement call as to what belongs in this section, but I generally tag as hate literature those periodicals which call for the extermination or suppression of some group on

racial, religious, or sexual grounds. Readers will probably differ, both as to the things I've included here and some I've left in the regular reviews.

TONY ALAMO (PO Box 398, Alma, AR 72921) is one of the more flamboyant figures on the religious right. He blames the Catholic Church and the Russians for everything from the assassination of JFK to the Federal Reserve system.

CHALCEDON REPORT #252 (PO Box 158, Vallecito, CA 95251): These people are so nutty that it's hard to tell (this issue includes a position paper on divorce that seems to say you can divorce your wife if she moves her bowels), but there is at the very least a strong strain of Communophobia and right-wing crankness here.

CHRISTIAN ANTI-COMMUNIST CRUSADE (PO Box 890, 227 E. Sixth St., Long Beach, CA 90801-0890): These people usually aren't in this box, but this time they've gone to far with an issue tracing the AIDS epidemic to a Communist plot and issuing a thinly-veiled call to imprison all homosexuals.

THE CHRISTIAN PATRIOT CRUSADER Vol. 4 #4 (\$1.50 from Brig. Gen. Jack Mohr, 113 Ballentine St., Bay St. Louis, MS 39520): Christian Identity ravings: anti-Jew, anti-communist, white racist. At least the production quality is better than on most of this shit.

THE CONFEDERATE LEADER 86-6 (\$6/6 months from White Patriot Party, PO Box 487, Jacksonville, NC 28541): Wildly anti-black, anti-Semitic tabloid with the Confederate flag in the masthead. The top brass were recently convicted of running an illegal paramilitary group but the group still manages lots of photos of burly men and pretty girls in fatigues marching about. [FROM THE MOUNTAIN says this group is now defunct].

THE COUNSEL OF CHALCEDON Oct. 1986 (\$15/yr from 3032 Hacienda Ct., Marietta, GA 30066): Another borderline case. The major content of this one is militant anti-abortion, with writings about the right to ignore unjust civil authority. I'm not sure whether firebombing is their style or not.

THE COVENANT MESSAGE Vol. 54 #2 (\$10/10 issues from Federation of the Covenant People, PO Box 830, Honeydew 2040, SOUTH AFRICA): Religious apologists for apartheid, who condemn communists, homosexuals, and any church that doesn't agree with them.

THE COVENANT PEOPLE'S ADVOCATES (Curtis Clair Ewing, 10105-194th E. #4, Graham, WA 98338): More Christian Identity. This issue is devoted to proving that the pure Anglo-Saxon line was diluted by bad marriages, citing scriptural evidence.

END TIMES PROPHETICAL NEWSLETTER Vol. 2 #3 (Donation from Spirit of Prophecy Bus Ministries, PO Box 19020/277, Las Vegas, NV 89132): Everyone protesting Contra aid is a Communist operating on orders from the Pope and should be jailed for treason at once. All rock is a tool of Satan. But I guess it's OK because the world is ending in 1991.

THE FINAL CALL (734 W. 79th St., Chicago, IL 60620): Farrakhan's bunch seem to have decided not to send me any copies, but you can subscribe to this paper for \$10/yr or buy a bunch of tapes (including "The Shame of Intermixing of Races!") for \$5 each.

FROM THE MOUNTAIN Nov.-Dec. 1986 (Donation from The Mountain Church, PO Box 331, Cohoctah, MI 48116): With a circulation around 4000, this is one of the major forces behind the call for an Aryan homeland in the Pacific Northwest. Straight Identity/Nazi/KKK line, expressed quite well. Free to prisoners and active in prisoners rights.

FRONTLINE #1 (\$8/6 months from Southern National Front, PO Box 11, Fayetteville, NC 28302): A new group apparently modeling themselves on Britain's National Front and hoping to get the

racialist message publicized by watering down some views and hiding others until they're larger. They don't hate blacks and Jews, they say, they just want to advance the cause of whites. Right.

HEIRS OF THE BLESSING (Scott Watson, PO Box 52, Herrin, IL 62948): Another Identity outfit that operates through cassette tapes, which I have not heard. their catalog is probably available for an SASE, and prices start at \$3.

THE NATIONALIST Vol. 2 #3 (50¢ from NDF, 444 N. Frederick Ave. #L-290, Gaithersburg, MD 20877): The National Democratic Front is another home-grown fascist group, calling for (among other things) separate nations for separate nations. We've come a long way since separate water fountains.

NATIONAL VANGUARD #107 (\$2.50 from PO Box 2264, Arlington, VA 22202): "A New Consciousness, A New Order, A New People" and the same old junk. Anti-Semitism in a slick cover.

NETWORK FOR CITIZEN ENLIGHTENMENT Sept. 1986 (\$20/yr from PO Box 1475, Clackamas, OR 97015): These folks may be nothing more than rabid Christians seeking to exert their political rights, or they may be another supremacy group. Their approach is pretty soft-sell.

NEW BEGINNINGS Vol. 16 #11 (Donation from PO Box 228, Waynesville, NC 28786): Heavy on scriptural interpretation, light on sense, with a background of pro-apartheid argument.

NEW SOLIDARITY 12/19/86 (\$25/100 issues from Campaigner Publications, PO Box 17726, Washington, DC 20041-0726): The LaRouche tabloid. The question is not so much who he hates as who he doesn't. It persists in attempts to portray Lyndon as an important mover and shaker in Washington, between attacks on the Queen of England and the FBI.

OVERCOMERS' INK. #4 (Donation from PO Box 2137, Trego, WI 54888): A relatively new and restrained Identity publication, still working on proving that Aryans are the Lost Tribes of Israel and not down to the consequences for the "aliens and mongrels" of other stock yet.

THE SPOTLIGHT Vol. XII #38 (\$30/yr from 300 Independence Ave. SE, Washington, DC 20003): You can obtain a free sample of this one from CRITIQUE (address above) if you want to check it out. This one has been around a long time and is generally of an outspoken conservative tenor, but this leads them to endorse various Revisionist and other views that come from the hate side of the spectrum. Quite possibly they should be out of this box but I don't feel all that much responsibility to money-making tabloids anyhow.

THE THUNDERBOLT #314 (\$7/6 months from PO Box 1211, Marietta, GA 30061): A scuzzy tabloid that bills itself as "News Suppressed by the Daily Press". Well, yes, the daily press doesn't spend so much vitriol on Jews and blacks and liberals.

WAR '86 Vol. 5 #5 (\$1 from White Aryan Resistance, PO Box 65, Fallbrook, CA 92028): The title just about says it all -- these guys think they are going to resist the Evil Government (always called "ZOG") in the tradition of The Order. Some FF readers will be interested in their listing of computer BBS phone numbers. (The California number is 619-723-8996, but there are half a dozen others as well).

THE WATCHMAN Fall 1986 (PO Box 62-B3, Schell City, MO 64783): The Third World is invading America and trampling the rights of "White native Christian Americans" (native???), and we either have to destroy them or go back to the land.

HEARTSONG REVIEW #1 (\$3 from PO Box 1084, Cottage Grove, OR 97424): A review of New Age music. The reviews themselves are interesting, with technical comments on sound quality, instruments used, and so on being flagged off separately from

the more impressionistic reviewers' thoughts. There are indices by suggested uses (Contemplation, relaxation, dance, etc.), by musical style and by spiritual orientation. HR also prints lots of contact addresses for those who want to find this sort of music.

THE HEATHEN SCIENCE MONITOR Jan. 1987 (\$6/yr from PO Box 3181, Traffic Stn., Minneapolis, MN 55403): Editor Johnny Hazard has decided to keep putting out this four-page contemporary satire journal despite the twin handicaps of lack of money and impossible to satirize news ("Meese: Reagan may have OK'd arms deal while ill or sedated"). In this issue: the bilious imperial presidency, crack education, and letters from Pete Seeger.

HEY DADDYO #7 (\$1 from Scott Boring, PO Box 587, Willoughby, OH 44094): Don't let the title fool you, this is another literary effort rather than a pfnazine. Mainly short stories interspersed with a bit of poetry. Some of the stories are pretty good, including Fraser Sims' "My Suicide (A Comedy)" and Mike Hudson's "Sex and Death". Lots of stuff dredged up from the unconscious spattered across these pages, bits of surreal horror battling it out with occasional sexual fantasies.

HIGH FRONTIERS ANNUAL 1987 (\$5 from PO Box 40271, Berkeley, CA 94704): These people have solved the problem of slipping publication schedules by becoming an annual. Somehow this reminds me of last year's edition -- the faith in sex and drugs and a wee bit of rock and roll to change the world, interviews with consciousness frontrunners -- in many cases the same as last year's interviewees -- and a very slick, nearly mainstream production. There are about 20 interviews and sundry articles here. Representative names: Tim Leary, Tom Robbins, William Burroughs, Michael Nesmith, Durk & Sandy, Paul Kantner, Skye Saxon, John Lilly, Jello Biafra. Futurism for the psychedelic set.

HIMALAYAN NEWS Nov./Dec. 1986 (On Request from Himalayan Institute, RR1, Box 400, Honesdale, PA 18431): Swami Rama's folks keep on pumping this tabloid out. This issue extols the virtues of desirelessness, lays out the winter schedule of courses, and provides a recipe for wheat-soy bread. Eastern teachings homogenized with western medical knowledge lead to their various seminars and courses.

THE HIP HOP HIT LIST Vol. 2 #24/25 (\$1 from 108 Grand Ave. #1L, Newark, NJ 07106): A pfnazine tabloid devoted to Hip Hop, which they define as "including Pop/ Break Dancing, Graffiti and Rap", if that makes things any clearer to you than it does to me. Interviews, reviews and hit lists, along with lots of photos. I think Run DMC may be the only group here I've ever heard any music from.

HI-TECH TERROR #17 (\$6/yr from Craig Ledbetter, PO Box 5367, Kingwood, TX 77325): Craig has reclaimed his baby from Tim Ferrante's interim editorship. The subject, though, is the same as ever: sleazy movies available on home video. This time around we have reviews of Victims, Spasms, Love Me Deadly, The Killer Hour and Doctor Butcher. Also has a column listing all the gruesome new releases.

HLI REPORTS Vol. 4 #10 (\$25/yr from 418 C St. NE, Washington, DC 20002): The newsletter of Human Life International, one of the big anti-abortion organizations. News from around the world, on places where abortion is being either liberalized (Greece) or restricted (Philippines). From the way they talk about Planned Parenthood, you'd think the latter group had a direct hot line to Satan himself.

HOLLYWOOD BOOK & POSTER CO. NEWS (Large SASE from 1706 N. Las Palmas Ave., Hollywood, CA 90028): A digest that interviews pro wrestlers, porno stars, musicians and other fringe types that one might find in Hollywood. Also reviews films and videos, covers wrestling a bit, and publishes comics and original art. Oh, also they're happy to sell you posters or stills or other movie ephemera -- get a copy of this and it will tell you how to get their catalogs.

HOME EDUCATION MAGAZINE Nov. 1986 (\$2 from PO Box 1083, Tonasket, WA 98855): Written by and for home-schoolers, this is an excellent resource for those who don't want to trust their kids to the state. Besides the bits on things to keep the kids interested in learning, this one also focuses on such things as setting up a curriculum in such a fashion as to please the local school board. Also keeps up with the legal status of home schooling and provides resource addresses.

HOME SCHOOLER'S WEEKLY #16 (Sample on request from PO Box 1083, Tonasket, WA 98855): This is published by the same folks who do Home Education Magazine, but I'm less impressed with it. Maybe this is just a poor issue. My complaint is that it is devoted exclusively to activities designed to keep the kids busy and out of trouble, without tying them into any particular educational philosophy. Home schooling should involve more than just getting the small fry out of Dad's hair.

THE HONEYWELL PROJECT CIRCULATOR Vol. 4 #7 (\$6/yr from 1519 E. Franklin Ave., Minneapolis, MN 55404): The Honeywell Project is trying to encourage conversion of war production capability to peaceful purposes one step at a time. Their first step is to get Honeywell to do something peaceful. They're working at this with vigils and civil disobedience. Much of the stuff here is about the people who've been arrested in the process; the rest discusses various rumours concerned with Honeywell's financial position and possible buyout.

HOT FLASHES 8 (\$1.25 from 5459 Miller Ave., Dallas, TX 75206): What is this? I don't know, but have dark suspicions of a long history hidden from prying eyes, namely mine. Editor Bob Trammell is evidently familiar with the small press movement since before the current boom, and he and his friends shoot the breeze about it in the letters column. The rest? Critical writing, poetry, sketches, autobiographical column by one Queen Octoroon. Someday it will all make sense, cryptic though it is now.

HUMAN EVENTS Vol. XLVI #35 (\$1 from 422 First St. SE, Washington, DC 20003): "The National Conservative Weekly", this one features Jeanne Kirkpatrick on Cuban political prisoners, David Martin talking about a winnable War On Drugs (just like Viet Nam, no doubt), and a back page ad that makes such claims for Soviet military superiority that I wonder why they haven't invaded yet, as we apparently have only a couple of pea-shooters to stop them. Still, I think all leftists should read this sort of thing regularly, to avoid becoming trapped in one little tunnel-vision view of reality.

HUNGRY MIND REVIEW #1 (\$1 (?) from 1648 Grand Ave., St. Paul, MN 55105): A review of books published by Midwestern writers and small presses. I don't know if that will give it enough unity to survive, but this first tabloid issue is ambitious enough to give one hope. Books covered include Harvey Pekar's AMERICAN SPLENDOR, Theodore Roszak's THE CULT OF INFORMATION and Steve Garvey's GARVEY. There are also some thoughts on the art of literary criticism.

ICE RIVER (50¢ (?) from 953 N. Gale, Union, OR 97883): "A Regional Literary Newsletter" from the Pacific Northwest. Bits and pieces of poetry, a short short story from the prolific Don Webb, and reviews of a batch of poetry and literary publications grace this issue. The main article is an attempt to define "Sound Poetry: by both words and images."

THE IDEALOG Vol. 1 #4 (\$2 from Lee Glickstein, 116 Coleridge St., San Francisco, CA 94110): Lee and his co-conspirator Joy-Lily run a regular brainstorming meeting out in the Bay Area, devoted to solving people's problems. I suspect this is one case where things just won't translate well to the printed page, but they're trying. In between discussing techniques they talk about results, and when that is done they philosophize on the process of change. Interesting reading even if you don't care to have thirty people picking at your problems.

IDOMO 20 1/2 (The Usual from Chuck Connor, Sildan House, Chediston Rd. Wissett, Nr. Halesworth, Sussex IP19 ONF, ENGLAND): In defiance of medical opinion, this one keeps publishing and annoying. I suppose I'd consider it a sfanzine with broadened horizons, in that Chuck runs whatever interest him, be in fanzine reviews, Trots and Bonnie cartoons, or essays by Bob Black (which of course provoke a vehement response). There's two great pieces of fiction in this issue: "The First and Last Citizen of the Late Great United States", by Kurt Nimmo, and Willie Smith's "Dracula Meets Jesus". Both manage to be simultaneously funny and disgusting, not an easy combination to pull off properly.

INCREDIBILITY ILLUSTRATED #1 (\$1 from John Caspers, 1271 Pine St., Essexville, MI 48732): A short comic book featuring the first chapter of a continuing Space Western and a quickie horror tale. The drawing is nearly but not quite competent -- it could develop into a style if it looked more intentional. The stories are just OK. Wait for another issue or two before taking the plunge.

INDIVIDUAL LIBERTY Vol. 17 #11 (\$10/yr from SIL, PO Box 338, Warminster, PA 18974): The monthly bulletin of the Society for Individual Liberty, a group of relatively soft-spoken libertarians. They come out against draft registration, the war on drugs, censorship and other popular antics of today's America.

THE INFORMANT Vol. 4 #1 (\$1.25 from PO Box 1768, Canal St. Stn., New York, NY 10013-0871): Nifty b&w pfanzine that uses a backdrop of photos and gig posters to good effect in their layout -- it's just too bad that they can't afford a better printing process. Still, the xerox look leaves everything stark and demented, which may be what they were trying to achieve. Covers a batch of hardcore and associated bands: Raw Power, A-Sexuals, PMS, Bully Boys and a few more, with record reviews and a fanzine contact list. One nice touch is that they give contact addresses for the bands they talk about.

INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM REPORT (\$30/yr from Institute for Government and Politics, 721 Second St. NE, Washington, DC 20002): The title says most all of it. These people are apparently believers in direct democracy, and they see initiatives as the most valid expression of this method in modern America. Thus they keep careful track of ballot drives and voting and report the results in this newsletter.

INQUIRY Vol. 3 #10 (\$30/yr from Critique, PO Box

11368, Santa Rosa, CA 95406): This one is published in England but available in the States thanks to Bob Banner's mag. It's sort of an Islamic version of TIME magazine: an 80-page slick with an avowedly Islamic point of view. Lots of coverage of African news that you won't find in the mainstream US press, plus special sections, this time on Islamic medicine (which is reviewed critically, rather than taken as the greatest thing since sliced white bread). More professional than most anything else I review, but hard enough to find that I think it's worth including.

INSIDE JOKE #50 (\$1 from Elayne Wechsler, PO Box 1609, Madison Sq. Stn., New York, NY 10159): For this gala issue a bunch of ex-staffers return, and if you want to see what kind of fiction I write, well, you can send Elayne money for a copy of this (and then you can send your complaints to me). This issue also features Anni Ackner writing about drug screening, JP Morgan doing snide reviews, and Ho Chi Zen's regular column, with lots of other gala stuff. Comedy, creativity and just plain boziness are all here, along with leads to a batch of fanzines that I don't manage to get. IJ is not, with its reduced print and editorial standards, everyone's cup of tea, but it's held a special place in the heart of many FF readers for years.

INSTAURATION Vol. 12 #1 (\$3.75 from Howard Allen Enterprises, PO Box 76, Cape Canaveral, FL 32920): The reader must be warned that these people are racist -- that is, they believe in racial differences -- but not hatemongers (I won't say the same about all of the people who write letters to them). They tend to run a mix of scholarly articles and news tidbits on how minorities are destroying American mainstream culture. The ideas here are potentially dangerous, but their suppression would be vastly more so.

INSTEAD OF A MAGAZINE #41 (\$1.25 + 50¢ postage from Lysander Spooner Society, PO Box 433, Willimantic, CT 06226): IOAM seems to be getting more contributors all the time. The tactic of setting a major topic for each issue and inviting comment has served to both focus and expand the discussion. This time around the main focus is on drugs -- not surprisingly, most of these anarchists argue for a lack of restrictions on their use and distribution, but there are fine points still being debated. There is also much on the situation for anarchists in Northern Ireland, inasmuch as the Spooners are bringing one over for a speaking tour this spring. If you're in the Northeast you should plan on catching his tour at one point or another -- write the Spooners to find out how close they're coming to you. There's a lot more here than drugs and Irishmen; the Tao, magazine reviews, Tom Robbins and umpires are just a few of the other topics.

INTERNATIONAL GRAFFITI TIMES (\$2 from SchMidLap, PO Box 299, Prince St. Stn., New York, NY 10012): The New York subway artists write about themselves and their peers and their art movement. They spurn the critical acceptance offered by a few trendy galleries preferring to remain independent and personal -- they won't do canvases, but for twenty bucks you can get an original T-shirt. Each issue features bits of graffiti philosophy and lots of photos of actual hits.

INTERNATIONAL SURREALIST BULLETIN #1 (\$2 from Black Swan Press, 1726 W. Jarvis Ave., Chicago, IL 60626): No, surrealism isn't dead, it's just been resting, or so these folks claim. Issued on the occasion of a joint conference between the Chicago surrealists and their Swedish compatriots (and printed in both languages), this contains all the

typical trappings of surrealism: manifestoes, condemnations of other movements and others who pretend to be surrealists, and an analysis of what's wrong with the world and what the surrealists can do about it. I don't find them inherently more confusing than other radical movements, but the vocabulary is unfamiliar to me, so I won't judge as to whether these folks or their enemies are the poseurs. Nice printing.

IN THESE TIMES Vol. 10 #22 (\$34.95/yr from 1300 W. Belmont Ave., Chicago, IL 60657): I expect that most of my readers who want to already know about "The Independent Socialist Newspaper", but a few people might still like to be tipped off about the tabloid condemned by Accuracy In Academia. Whatever it is, as long as the administration is behind it, they're against it, or so it seems. Libya, Nicaragua and the Haymarket hangings show up in this issue.

THE ISOLATED M (\$9/yr from Isa Lou Fisher, PO Box 390, El Dorado, KS 67042): This is the newsletter of Mensa's Isolated Mensan Special Interest Group -- for those Mensans who live so far from all the others that they are forced to participate in meetings by mail. Full of letters, jokes, trivia, brainteasers, recipes and whatnot. With upwards of 2000 circulation, I suspect there are some non-isolated Mensans and others getting this too.

ISSUE #69 No. 7 (\$1 (?) from Major Morality Press, 1283 Woodside Dr., San Luis Obispo, CA 93401): The title here is "Issue #69" and the rest is the issue number, OK? This looks like a pfanzine and indeed has some of the trappings of one (record reviews, Social Dead interview), but devotes the majority of its pages to reprinting clippings designed to give the reader a kick in the mind. Stuff here on South Africa, nukes, unemployment, Rambo, SWAT teams, and so on.

IT'S ONLY A MOVIE (\$1 from Pam Smith, 54 W. Randolph, Rm. 606-E2, Chicago, IL 60601): The newsletter of the Chicago Psychotronic Film Society, people who like weird movies and the weird culture that goes with them. Columns by Del Close, John Ostrander and other folks known in this or kindred fields; nihilism; videos for sale. They also host events in the Chicago area that sound like a lot of fun.

IT STILL DOESN'T MATTER #8 (Send stamps to Bill Shields, c/o Sprinter Printing, 5250 W. 74th St., Edina, MN 55435): "Sex and Science Fiction" is the title this time around and, wonder of wonders, most of the writers actually stick to it. Considering that these are writers the likes of Al Ackerman (why is that man plaguing me everywhere?!) and Jake Berry, that's quite an achievement. Poetry, stories and the occasional bit of bad art combine to give a poor impression of a noble literary genre, but a good time is had by all the aliens involved.

JAG Vol. 25 #2 (On request from R.S. Jaggard, MD 10 E. Charles, Oelwein, IA 50662): A single-sheet broadside from a private physician passionately opposed to the growing welfare state in this country. He backs up his views by not taking government payments and by spending tons of cash on popularizing his views, all to great financial loss. This issue maintains that freedom is available (in the context of medical services, but the argument can be read more broadly) to anyone who cares enough to claim it instead of settling for security.

JEREMIAH Vol. 1 #11 (\$2.50 from EMCE, PO Box T, Crugers, NY 10523): Sort of iconoclasm in a can, or at least in a four-page rant. This time around the pseudonymous Jeremiah considers man's territorial

nature and decries those who would make him into a French poodle. I think Robert Ardrey may have beaten him to the punch, but it's a message that bears repeating.

JEROME SMITH'S INVESTMENT PERSPECTIVES Vol. IV #9 (Sample \$10 from 256 S. Robertson #711, Beverly Hills, CA 90211): "Based on the Austrian School of Economics". Now I can understand how places that give actual investment advice are able to convince people to part with ridiculous sums of money in hopes of striking it rich, but the entire contents of this one is a single article titled "Gearing up For Global Hyperinflation". Ten bucks seems a steep price to pay for six pages of facts that you could glean from any major newspaper -- that banks are failing, the national debt is up, and so on. If they don't even presume to offer advice, what good is it?

JERRYCO CATALOG 30 (50¢ from 601 Linden Pl., Evanston, IL 60202): A surplus catalog written by people with a sense of humor and occasionally no sense of economics -- in other words there are bargains to be found (particularly if you're looking for a Norden bombsight). Pipettes, parachutes, pillows, pen holders and plastic ants are a few of the things you'll find here. They also have a subsidiary that sells new optical products if you happen to need some lenses and such.

JERSEY BEAT #29 (\$1 from Jim Testa, 418 Gregory Ave., Weehawken, NJ 07087): This pzfanzine features a great hardcore Santa cover on the current issue, and introduces an "Ask the Anarchist" advice column. Dave Run It gets in another cute little cartoon, a batch of music finds itself reviewed, and the guys over at Conflict get jabbed a few times in a continuation of 1986's premiere pzfanzine feud. Adrenalin OD is tabbed as the Local Band of the Year, and the centerfold reveals "13 records that did not suck in 1986", along with a batch of favorites lists.

JET LAG #72 (\$1 from 8419 Halls Ferry Rd., St. Louis, MO 63147): Some people think JL sucks because they don't cover only one genre of music. Me, I like to see Marti Jones next to 54-40 with R.E.M. a few pages later. Most of the articles are a cross between just writing and interviews, and a batch of mixed record reviews appears at the end. Also contains plenty of local scene news and the occasional interesting letter.

JND 2 (\$1 from Bob Morris, PO Box 470, Van Nuys, CA 91408): JND stands for Just Noticeable Difference, a psychoacoustic term. This pzfanzine tries to approach electronic music with a JND, using a rather analytical mode of attack and trying to put today's noise in a historical context. Despite the academic overtones of such things as Pierre Schaeffer's "musique concrete", I was most intrigued with the interview with Skull Fracture, a group that has carried music to the level of guerilla assaults on the unsuspecting public and garnered multiple arrests in doing so.

JOE'S 6 1/2 #10 (50¢ from Joe Hoppe, 1425 La Salle #409, Minneapolis, MN 55403): Anyone who remembers my good review of Joe Hoppe's HARMON PLACE a few issues back will not be surprised to hear that JOE'S is moving in the direction of printing fiction instead of traditional fanzine fare. They do a good job; while I don't think this is yet comparable to, say, BEST OF CLOSEST PENGUINS [see BOOKS], it's heading in the right direction. The stories here operate without plot, being observances of chunks of life in the raw. Contributions are, I'm sure, eagerly accepted.

THE JOURNAL OF HISTORICAL REVIEW Vol. 7 #2 (\$30/yr from IHR, PO Box 1306, Torrance, CA 90505): Yes, this comes from the Institute for Historical Review, those folks who say the Holocaust didn't happen. But there are only a dozen pages of Holocaust revisionism in this fat digest; the rest deals with other historical events. Our old friend Bob Black talks about Andrew Johnson's impeachment trial, and other articles discuss the Luftwaffe in Spain and the Legionary Movement in Romania. Also reviews of revisionist books.

JOURNAL OF REGIONAL CRITICISM (\$1 (?) from 1025 Garner St. #18, Colorado Springs, CO 80905): JRC is a strange kettle of fish. Sometimes it devolves to mere scribbling of symbols which neither I nor my poetry critic can make anything of. Other times it starts out talking of surrealist philosophy, but within a few pages will be babbling in unknown tongues or lapsing into complete non sequitur bits of prose. I can see doing this occasionally to make a point (though what the point is escapes me), but every issue?

JUST BECAUSE #1 (\$1 from Pat Gault, PO Box 1061, Battle Creek, MI 49016-1061): A high-spirited new entrant to the pzfanzine world. This issue interviews the Sinatras and Blue Rhythm Diplomats, but that's just part of the story. There's also a Real George video column, an F-Troop poster, and various bits of editorial insight. I particularly approve of the idea of reviewing one pzfanzine in depth and referring readers to FACTSHEET FIVE for broader coverage of the written word.

KEYSTONE TRAILS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER Fall 1986 (\$3/yr from PO Box 251, Cogan Station, PA 17728): The KTA is a private group that maintains trails and promotes hiking within the state of Pennsylvania. They exist primarily to provide services for hikers -- maps, information and so on. They also rebuild and maintain trails, and keep a listing of people willing to drive you from the bottom of the trail back to the top where you parked your car. Anyone know if there is such a group in New York?

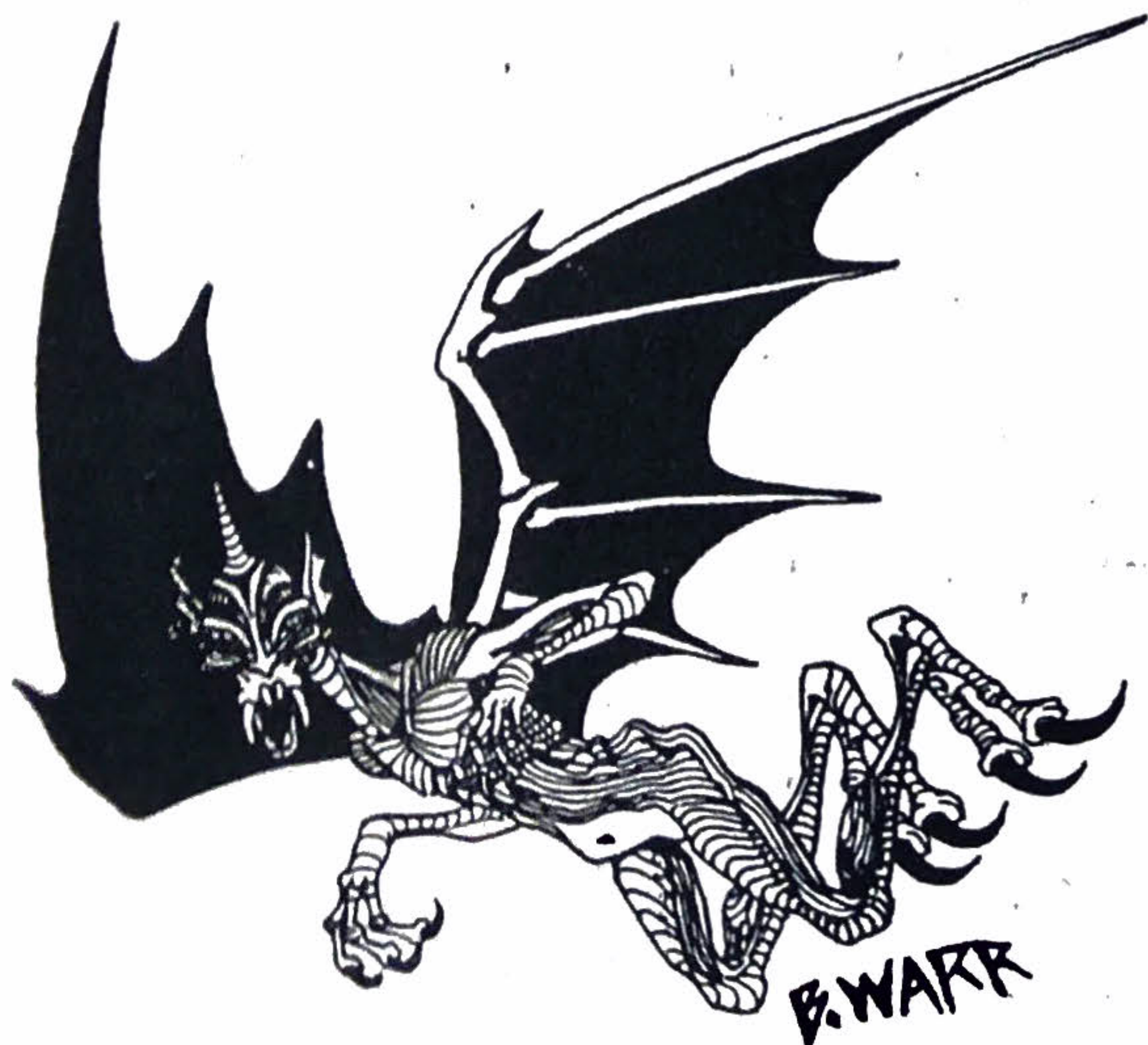
KICK IT OVER #17 (\$1.50 from PO Box 5811, Stn. A, Toronto, ONT M5W 1P2): Another of the Toronto clan of anti-authoritarian tabloids, KIO is trying to establish a broader vision of the future, still opposed to the state but not necessarily limited to the current confines of anarchist theory. Thus we have Kirkpatrick Sale, Eco-Feminism, and Green politics in this issue along with more traditionally anarchist writing. The letters column is fiercely debating a few topics, and while KIO seems to inspire more disagreement than rational thought, even that is probably useful in today's left.

KIDS LIB NEWS #6 (\$1 from Oness Press, PO Box 336, Calpella, CA 95418): Mycall Sunanda has a vision of raising kids freely and it excites him so that he bubbles over with ideas and isn't always as coherent as possible. Fortunately he tends to include lots of sources so you can find out more if you're interested. He sees kids as, I think, people in their own right, and a different kind of people than just small adults. There is a joyful spirit shot all through this zine that is quite cheering to see.

KINDRED VOICES Autumn 1986 (Donation, I guess, from 1337 6th Ave., Des Moines, IA 50314): This one appears to emanate from a shelter for people who have fallen through the official "safety net". As

such, they're getting by on less income to outgo, and probably would appreciate cash more than zines. You can read about their local problems, about the organizational trials of running such a shelter, and about their reactions to various larger issues such as South African sanctions or nonviolence.

K.P. INC. #7 (22¢ stamp from Dave, 3457 Fremont Ave. N. Minneapolis, MN 55412): A small handwritten pzfanzine that is basically all opinion, no fluff. Dave reviews records and tapes and live shows and lists the fanzines he's received. A low-budget introduction to part of the underground.



LAND OF THE LOST #1 (\$1.50 from Lost Toy Publishing Co., c/o Agni Runningweed, PO Box 371, Suffern, NY 10901): "The Pagan rag that only the Mother could love!" proclaims the cover, and I expect they're right. Agni has obviously been around the neopagan movement for a while and now has decided to make fun of it all. From the filks to the new rituals to the advertisement for Pagofest to the letters column this is an occasionally nasty, often funny, sometimes hilarious takeoff on the modern pagan press. A great antidote to reading one too many serious explanations of the Ancient Ways.

LEFT COURT #11 (\$5 from SPI, PO Box 1696, Skokie, IL 60076): "The Journal of the Socialist Party of Illinois". There is some dreary doctrinaire stuff here, like the party platform and report of the Socialist International meeting in Peru, but there are also gleams of light. David Stein's explanation of the Catholic Worker movement and Rebecca Severson's work on community gardens, while hardly the stuff that revolutions are made of, do seem to point at tactics that can be successful in the here and now.

LFL REPORTS #5 (SASE from 13424 Hathaway Dr., Wheaton, MD 20906): The newsletter of Libertarians for Life, a single-issue group if ever there was one. These folks are anti-abortion, but rather than taking their case to society as a whole they're trying to convince members of the Libertarian Party. I expect this to be about as easy as selling refrigerators to Eskimos. This issue is a memorial of sorts to their past editor, killed by a drunk driver, and so contains almost no argument on the main topic, but there are reports of failed attempts to interest the national LP convention in a "No Abortion" plank for the platform.

LGLC NEWSLETTER #16 (\$2 from 1800 Market St. #210, San Francisco, CA 94102): The organ of the Libertarians for Gay and Lesbian Concerns, an area in which the pro-freedom philosophy preached by the LP has much to offer. This issue is devoted to an analysis of the recent Supreme Court ruling upholding the Georgia anti-sodomy law.

THE LIBERATOR Vol. 2 #3 (Contribution from Chris Hofland, 1433 Santa Monica Blvd., Santa Monica, CA 90404): The newsletter of Advocates for Self-Government, Inc., a group which seems to exist mainly to send Marshall Fritz about the country. Marshall is a sort of recruiter for the libertarian ideal; from what I've heard, he's a committed libertarian who is also a great salesman. The major idea of ASG is to build on this approach to get the 5 million people they see necessary for national change, by teaching others how to become better recruiters. If you want to work on it, join them and be harassed unmercifully for new blood.

THE LIBERTARIAN FAMILIST Vol. 5 #6 (On request from 5324 Sun Valley Dr., El Paso, TX 79924): This one works within the Libertarian framework, from a natural rights perspective, to defend the rights of children and parents. The use of natural law as a foundation rather than utilitarianism makes them somewhat unusual among libertarian outreach organizations, but it also makes their arguments much finer. Written for the most part by readers (in the form of letters) the FAMILIST has had its ups and downs over the years, but for the most part it makes for thought-provoking reading. I'm still not convinced that natural rights exist, but I'm sure they are.

LIBERTARIAN LABOR REVIEW #1 (\$2.50 from PO Box 2824, Stn. A, Champaign, IL 61820): This has nothing in common with other "libertarian" periodicals below, coming as it does from an

anarchosyndicalist perspective. (That means they want the workers to replace the state). Many of the articles here are technical or narrowly sectarian, but I was captivated by Jon Bekken's "Fight For the Four-Hour Day", an idea which I find both obvious and simple but which is apparently too far out for most people to even consider. The rest of the stuff here is rooted in practice rather than theory for the most part, but I'm none too sure what even the practice is telling us. Keep an eye on this for the future.

LIBERTARIAN PARTY NEWS Vol. 1 #7 (\$15/yr (includes LP membership) from 301 W. 21st, Houston, TX 77008): this is the big one, the newspaper of the national Libertarian Party. I guess you have to admire the staying power (or the stupidity) of any group that can start off page one with "Libertarians lost almost all their battles in the 1986 elections...they came through it in good enough shape eventually to win the war for a freer society". Well, I suppose you don't want to tell your supporters you're all washed up. Anyhow, this is a mix of libertarian news (Buchanan wins Nobel Prize) and pleas for help (Building a Party Twenty-Five Ways). Good luck, guys.

LIBERTARIAN PENN Vol. 14 #4 (\$12/yr from PO Box 41827, Philadelphia, PA 19104): OK, I'm sure you can guess that this is the state LP newsletter from Pennsylvania. These people are able to convince themselves that the losing campaign in '86 was not a waste of effort despite spending a record amount of dollars per vote they got. Other than that, it's about what one would expect, news of local members and local events.

LIFE & FAMILY NEWS Vol. VI #4 (\$6/yr from PO Box 7244, Collegeville, MN 56321): As one might guess from the title, this tabloid is staunchly anti-abortion, although some red-baiting and other issues do find their way in. In addition to the usual moral exhortations they cover major court cases around the country that deal with "direct action at the abortuaries". Unfortunately their coverage is so slanted as to be useless for making an independent judgment as to the cases involved. I did get a thoughtful kick out of their cover story on taking care of a helpless, incontinent, screaming patient...a baby.

LIFE ON PLANET EARTH #1-4 (25¢ & SASE from J.C. Coleman, PO Box 85807, Seattle, WA 98145): This gentleman claims to be from the Embassy of Planet Claire, observing the turkeys on earth. I'm not sure what to make of this -- bits of interesting commentary on Murphy's Law are mixed with homophobia and pointless comics. I must admit that I'm prejudiced against dot-matrix MacIntosh output as well. I did like his screed on Hacky Sack.

LIGHT IN THE BUSHEL #3 (\$1 (?) or The Usual from Richard Brandt, 4740 N. Mesa #111, El Paso, TX 79912): It's unfortunate that this is the first issue of this that I've seen, because I feel like I've walked in on a movie after the intermission. Forthrightly assuming that we already know all about him, Richard describes a slice from the life of a sfan, and does it pleasantly. Most of this issue is taken up by his account of Armadillocon, with the rest of the zine being a lettercol debating the pros and cons of the Australian ballot.

LITERARY MARKETS (\$10/yr from 4340 Coldfall Rd., Richmond, BC V7C 1P8, CANADA): A newsletter for the aspiring writer or poet. Unlike SCAVENGER'S NEWSLETTER, this one doesn't concentrate on any particular genre. They report in brief form who's buying, what they're paying, what they want, and how

long they take to reply. Also has an extensive listing of literary and poetry contests.

THE LITTLEST UNICORN Vol. 3 #2 (\$1 from The Rowan Tree Church, PO Box 8814, Minneapolis, MN 55408): This is the Yule issue of this pagan newsletter for children & parents, and so is covered with pictures of pagan Yule things like that Kringle character. Also features a creation story for the small fry and a couple of other stories, plus some simplified herbal notes on mistletoe.

THE LITTLE RHINO GAZETTE #4 (\$1.50 from Undercover Publications, PO Box 14139, Arlington, TX 76094-1139): The editors of this rag discovered the underground through Andrea Enthal's column in SPIN (we all gotta start somewhere; I was a D&D fan) and decided to join it. Not having focused on anything in particular yet, LRG is thus an intriguing mix of music, poetry, stories, ranting and raving, and word search puzzles. Ray Nelson's column METATIME, with the suggestion that the whole century has gone into reruns, is most amusing; the short poems under "Cloudbursting" are most thought-provoking. Something for everyone.

LIVING FREE #36 (\$1.50 from Jim Stumm, PO Box 29, Hiler Branch, Buffalo, NY 14223): Jim believes in trying to grab all the freedom you can get in this life. This means he's interested in libertarian theory but practicing self-liberation, the art of avoiding the state by getting as lost as you can manage. He prints a mix of thoughts on foreign and national affairs and practical advice on do-it-yourself technology, and is also something of a historian of the Vonu movement, with lots of photocopies of obscure newsletters for sale.

THE LIVING SPHERE #1 (\$4.44 from BSRF, PO Box 549, Vista, CA 92083): An odd combination of mysticism and deep ecology, although I don't know if the editor is familiar with the latter term. But the concern with the earth as a living organism is here, along with aboriginal shamanism, Shinto, astrology and a lot of other things. Occult healing, Hopi Indian myths, Shaver-stuff, and much more are in this issue, 48 pages of fringe wisdom. Check out the article "Living Water" on the theories of Viktor Schauberger, who helped Hitler build flying saucers.

LLEWELLYN'S NEW TIMES #866 (\$1 from PO Box 64383, St. Paul, MN 55164): Llewellyn Books publish all sorts of New Age and spiritual and pagan stuff (and you'll find one of their books reviewed in this FF: INNER WORLD OF FITNESS), and much of this tabloid is devoted to promoting their stuff. There are some articles on astrology, paranormal studies and the like and lots of ads, from Llewellyn for the most part but also other publishers in the field and from people who want to sell you crystals and stuff.

THE LOG Jan./Feb. 1987 (Haven of Rest, PO Box 2031, Hollywood, CA 90078): I can't tell from their stuff what brand of evangelical Christians these folks are, but they sell a batch of gospel music on 8-track tapes if you don't listen to their radio show. The major article in this issue is simply titled "Drugs", and recommends a combination of the Toughlove and AA programs for solving drug problems. The worst of both worlds, I fear.

THE LOG CABIN #86 (\$1 from Louisa Poulin, HC-38, Box 1178, Winchester, VA 22601): The newsletter of MENSA's Back-to-the-Land Special Interest Group (what a mouthful!). It works out to be sort of an apa for homesteaders, with various friends and members writing in with news of their farmhouses, gardens, rodent control problems, and whatever else. Pleasant chattiness and occasional recipes and other things useful even to those of us who only have a

third of an acre to go back to.

LOOKOUT! #23 (\$1 from Lawrence Livermore, PO Box 1000, Laytonville, CA 95454): I don't know whether Lawrence is an anti-authoritarian or just a burnout, but in any case, he writes well and puts out an appropriate amount of Righteous Outrage over things like the Irangate mess. Then a few pages later he'll be snarking back at readers' letters and you'll forget that there was a serious moment at the start. Also of note in this issue are the news about the INS plans to screen musicians coming into this country and the story about the good old days, broke and living with junkies in New York.

LOSING FAITH #1 (\$1 from PO Box 10533, Minneapolis, MN 55440): The cover letter says "New zine from younger punk elements of Artpolice group enuf to spoil your day I'm sure" and that is it in a nutshell. Rude, crude, raunchy and sexually explicit, the LF drawings show people also losing their virginity in various orifices. In other words, if you're easily offended, don't even think about buying this. If not, it's a series of single-panel comic-like drawings of down and out folks pissed off with the institutions of the modern world, with each other, or perhaps just with being in this stupid book.

LOWEST COMMON DENOMINATOR Vol. 1 #3 (\$1 (?) from WFMU, Upsala College, East Orange, NJ 07019): This is meant to be distributed for free locally, and they don't put a mail price on it. Silly boys, since it is more than just a program guide. In this issue they have Robin James writing about cassette culture, Jim Marshall on forgotten great artists of the past (ever hear of the Dutchess?), and Baboon Dooley -- and, oh yes, the program guide. They must be doing something right, because listener contributions over the past couple of years have amounted to \$35 grand, enough to buy a new transmitter.

LUNO (\$10/yr from Gene Lehman, 31960 SE Chin St., Boring, OR 97009): For a buck you can get some samples of Gene's work with the Learning Unlimited Network of Oregon. He's a teacher with ideas about making learning in the elementary schools fun, which probably means he has damn little chance of getting them implemented, but he keeps trying. Besides amusing little phonetics quizzes and bits of contact information for other mavericks, Gene is now writing editorial rants on the amusing mistakes of our current Teflonless leader.

THE MAD ENGINEER #5 (75¢ from Mary Hagan, 3333 E. Rhorer Rd., Bloomington, IN 47401): A digest-sized sfzine that reminds me somewhat of early FFs, which is odd since the topic is completely different. Maybe it's the growing pains in the editorial. Anyhow, Mary publishes various bits and pieces of engineering, like instructions on how to protect your videotape collection from the EMP effects of a nuclear bomb. Also included are one or two more traditional features, including a con report that must be from the only person in the world who still goes to the panels at a Worldcon.

MAGIC BULLET 3:1 (39¢ postage from 169 W. Huntingdon St., Philadelphia, PA 19133): I think perhaps these people are on their way to reinventing Surrealism, or some other equally strange and pointless artistic movement. MB is a digest full of poems, art and stories which seem to mean something but amount to an empty sigh when you are done reading.

THE MALE CHAUVINIST NEWSLETTER Vol. 1 #4 (\$12/yr from TLC International, 174 Ludlow St. (Bsmt), New York, NY 10002): A mixture of clippings from

checkout rags and pictures clipped from Hustler or someplace. Pretty much devoid of any social commentary. If you want nude pictures, spend the cash on Penthouse and get 'em in color instead.

MANALIVE Vol. II #13 (\$9/yr from PO Box 19692, St. Paul, MN 55119): The newsletter of the Minnesota Men's Council, which I gather is a support group for men attempting to break out of the stereotypes of being male. The most interesting part is the discussion of their recent meetings. Also features poetry and essays written by men.

MARY'S LETTER (SASE from PO Box 12146, Lake Park, FL 33403): The subtitle here is "for readers, writers and refunders". One might add, and for doll collectors, as that seems to be another of her interests. Four pages of chat on mail-order happenings, how to get the UPC codes off of products, and her holiday season. For some reason this reminds me of sitting in the kitchen and reading as I bake fresh bread. Make of that what you will.

MASTER OF LIFE #33 (On Request from PO Box 38, Malibu, CA 90265): A flashy, colorful tabloid dedicated to publicizing the products and work of Dick and Tara Sutphen, New Age entrepreneurs. They run seminars and a bookstore, sell New Age tapes and records, and my guess is that they are raking in substantial amounts of money doing it all. Anyone who can get away with charging \$16.50 for 2 cassette tapes has certainly found a gullible market. There are also "articles" in this catalog, but they're designed to tell you how wonderful the Sutphen methods are.

META-SCOOP Vol. 3 #11/12 (\$10/yr from 1004 Live Oak #101, Arlington, TX 76012): For individuals who are "fascinated by the wonder of it all". The editors use their space to scan over bits of thought about peace, spirituality, and other New Age topics. The winner this time is an update about the old Neimoller quote (you know, "First they came for...") to fit in with today's American social climate.

MIDWEST MILITIA #3 (\$2 from Dennis Bergeron, 2405 Catalpa, Waukegan, IL 60085): A heavy-metal pfnzine for all you guys into studs and leather. Full of pictures of sneering young men wearing black heather and chains and flanked by band names done in angular letters backed with lightning bolts. I'm sorry, but all this stuff looks the same to me. Some bands featured in this issue are Breaker, Liegelord, Mercyful Fate, Bitches Sin, Fates Warning, and Oxen Killer. The coverage seems about evenly split between band histories and discussions of the finer gradations in the heavy metal world.

THE MIDWIFE ADVOCATE Vol. 3 #3 (\$10/yr from MFOM, PO Box 237, Newtonville, MA 02160): MFOM stands for Massachusetts Friends of Midwives, which is precisely what these people are. They are behind a sort of total approach to the legitimization of midwifery, far beyond a simple call for legalization. For example, this issue reports on fights for educational standards and malpractice insurance for midwives.

THE MILITANT Vol. 50 #46 (75¢ from 14 Charles Lane, New York, NY 10014): Written "in the interests of workers and farmers everywhere", this is labor news from a socialist perspective. It's certainly more readable than the DAILY WORKER's communist perspective on the same news. Most of this stuff is international -- Nicaragua, Angola, Puerto Rico -- but there is a significant fraction from the states. Among the latter is a page of stuff on the P9 Hormel Union, still trying to get their jobs back after all these months.

THE MILL HUNK HERALD Fall 1986 (\$1.50 from 916 Middle St., Pittsburgh, PA 15212): "Pittsburgh's Worker-Writer Journal" proves that a blue collar is no obstacle to picking up a pen. In fact, being down and out in America today is apparently a real source of creativity, as there is much moving stuff here. Not as radical as the papers put out by college anarchists, not as highfalutin' as most of the literary journals around, MHH has the advantage of being written by real people about real problems. They're happy to look at submissions from elsewhere. A lot of it is about unionism or survival, but there are also bits of frivolity scattered around.

THE MIND BLASTER Vol. 1 #2 (\$1.50 CASH/MO from Mark Johnston, Buck Rt., Box 111, Hinton, WV 25951): A SubGenial publication that is both on time and funny, a rarity in these dark days of Bobbies. Conspiracy news from the major press agencies, free energy sources and a cutup article from Robert Anton Wilson are some of the highlights of this issue. Of interest to mail artists, Discordians and assorted other fringes besides the SubG's.

MINI EXAMINER Vol. 8 #17 (\$1 from Irene Hamlen Stephenson, PO Box 3893, Chatsworth, CA 91313-3893): A newsletter that tries to explain happenings using biorhythm analysis. Sometimes this stuff rings true, being a sort of rule of thumb psychology, like astrology or Tarot, and subject to interpretation from the writer. Also carries ads from a batch of others who will figure out your life for you.

MONEY MAKING OPPORTUNITIES Jan. 1987 (\$1.50 from Success Publishing International, 11071 Ventura Blvd., Studio City, CA 91604): This one is sort of slick but I'm still flabbergasted enough to include it. The cover boldly announces "447 Ways to make 1987 Your Biggest Money Making Year Ever". As far as I can tell, they're referring to their ads, which offer such exciting careers as building PVC pipe lawn furniture, wholesaling antique-look pencil sharpeners, and becoming a mail-order college guidance counselor. I suspect the only people making any money are the good folks at Success Publishing.

THE MONTHLY INDEPENDENT TRIBUNE TIMES JOURNAL POST GAZETTE NEWS CHRONICLE BULLETIN #49 (44¢ stamps or 50¢ CASH from T.S. Child, 2510 Bancroft Way #207, Berkeley, CA 94704): Despite its humorous tone, this one persists in the self-identification of "The magazine to which no superlatives apply". With four years of a clockwork 8 pages of humor a month, you'd think they'd at least be longest-running or something. Anyhow, this tuff is for the most part chucklesome, with the final update on the perverted dog Marmaduke, a few cartoons, and oddball short short stories from oddball short short writers.

A MONTHLY LESSON IN CRIMINAL POLITICS July 31, 1986 (\$149.95/yr from Lawrence Patterson, PO Box 37812, Cincinnati, OH 45222): Sometimes I wonder if I'm in the wrong branch of the industry. Here's a guy publishing 14 pages a month of dire warnings about the fate of the economy and veiled nonsense about the secular new age humanists taking over the country, and look at the price the market will bear. I suspect that these things sell much better during boom times than bust -- people like to be scared. This is FRIDAY THE THIRTEENTH, PART 10,000 for investors and Republicans.

MURDER CAN BE FUN #4 (50¢ from Johnny Marr, PO Box 640111, San Francisco, CA 94109): Johnny spends a lot of his time in the dark and silly little corners of life that most of us spot occasionally. Catch the lineup for this one: a cover story on the

Tacoma Narrows bridge (you know, the subject of the great bouncing bridge videotape), a bibliography of books about Ted Bundy, serial killer, and a comparative study (a la CONSUMER REPORTS) of True Confessions magazines. The book reviews will clue you in on all the strange and gross things that neither I nor the NY TIMES are willing to trumpet to the world. Reaches new depths every issue.

MY AWE #7 (75¢ from Verna, 1501 NE 102nd St., Seattle, WA 98125): This is sort of Verna's "What I did on my summer vacation issue", and from the looks of it, she mostly listened to records and read fanzines. Most interesting to me is something completely different, an interview with the Youth Defense Campaign, an organization of punkers (I think) that has something very close to a trade union consciousness, trying to fight back against the system through solidarity. I hope they succeed in getting a bit of breathing room. There's also poetry, a copy of a stupid ordinance from the Seattle city council, and some boffo art.

THE MYSTERY AND ADVENTURE SERIES REVIEW #17 (\$1.50 from Fred Woodworth, PO Box 3488, Tucson, AZ 85722): Lest you think this is another zine that panders to my own deviant tastes, let me assure you that nowhere within it is The Destroyer or The Executioner mentioned. Nope, this is for fans of OLD mystery and adventure series -- Nancy Drew, Brains Binton, Oz, Hardy Boys, Power Boys, that sort of thing. There are a lot of them. Contents here are sometimes bibliographical, sometimes descriptive, sometimes just rumors or thoughts on the book-collecting industry. There are also some ads, and this would probably be a good place to start hunting anything you need to fill out a set.

MYSTERY & DETECTIVE MONTHLY #25 (\$2.50 from Bob Napier, 14411-C South C. St., Tacoma, WA 98444): This is a letterzine, a genre which I had thought extinct. They run sort of like apas, but the editor decides which letters and which parts to print in each issue. The process is sort of like taming lions, and the result in this case is a very interesting cage indeed. I recognize an author or two on the contributors list, but most of these folks are just mystery fans, talking to themselves and each other, and having a grand time. The only thing not a part of the letters is a listing of new mysteries, presumably there to give folks something to talk about. If you can't find anyone to discuss mysteries with, this is the place.

MYSTERY SCENE #5 (\$3.50 from 3840 Clark Rd. SE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52403): If the paper were newsprint I'd call this the FLIPSIDE of mystery fanzines. These 66 pages are crammed full of interviews with mystery authors (and of course ideas on how to write mysteries), reviews of mystery and horror books (it's a fine line, and one the editors are not averse to crossing), news of forthcoming publications, and columns like Warren Murphy's "Curmudgeon's Corner" (haven't I seen something like that somewhere before?). There's even some real short mystery fiction in this issue. Indispensable if you want to keep up with the field, but be prepared for an awesome amount of reading.

MYSTIC PRESS Jan. 1987 (\$6/yr from John Kurluk, PO Box 6186, Baltimore, MD 21231): I don't know what brought it on, but the lead article in this pagan zine is "Diabetics are more Psychic and Mystical!". Inside, the strange coverage continues with stories of haunted houses, Rocky Mountains Winged Men, and female spirituality. They end up with a bunch of classified ads offering incense, Tarot readings, brochures on finding your soulmate, and so on. I wonder if they want to grow up to be the next Llewellyn pubs?

 THE NAKED ID #14 (\$1.50 from Richard E. Geis, PO Box 11408, Portland, OR 97211): With the exception of one page of book reviews from Paulette Minare, this is Geis's personal journal. He spends a few of his pages in reviews also, but most of this thing is in the form of diary entries, often direly predicting gloom and doom for us whenever the financial system finally caves in. Well...he may be right. Anyhow, lest you get the wrong impression, he also talks about dieting, writing novels, and the topics of conversation of those in his economic class. Stay tuned for further developments; this is supposed to be metamorphosing into an all-review zine soon.

 NAMBLA BULLETIN Vol. 7 #9 (\$2 from 537 Jones St. #8418, San Francisco, CA 94102): Is there anyone among my readership who doesn't know that that stands for North American Man/Boy Love Association? Yes, Virginia, there are pedophiles, and they don't eat babies for lunch either. I suspect they would prefer to spend their journal dollars on photographs and stories (there are some of each here), but in the current social climate they find it necessary to use up a lot of space on nonsense like the Meese Commission, police entrapment schemes, and children's rights. Specialized and sophisticated, I don't feel like my kids would be threatened by these people, although their more vocal enemies worry me.

 NATIONAL COALITION NEWS (\$12.50/yr from NCACS, RD 1, Box 378, Glenmoore, PA 19343): The full name of this group is the National Coalition of Alternative Community Schools, and this magazine is one of their primary networking tools. "Alternative" extends from all manner of private and free schools on down to home schooling. Most interesting in this issue was an article by Sandy Hurst, asking some tough questions about supporting home schooling (Should we support it for people who are only trying to isolate their children from other races?). No answers, but a lot of food for thought.

 THE NATIONAL BOYCOTT NEWSLETTER Vol. II #1 (\$3/yr from 6506 28th Ave. NE, Seattle, WA 98115): A tabloid that spreads the word of boycotts called -- or called off. For each boycott, it tells you who's in the soup, what not to buy, why not, and who says so. The information has gotten considerably more complete and useful in the past few issues with the inclusion of replies from the companies being boycotted -- I certainly hope NBN continues to promote this dialogue. In most cases I myself do not agree with the basic philosophy of the tactic, but I think calling for a boycott can often serve to publicize (and perhaps help solve) problems.

 THE NATURALIST Vol. III #1 (\$25/4 issues from Garry De Young, PO Box 7252, Spencer, IA 51301-7252): Garry is of course an FF columnist who spends much of his time trying to dig out injustice in the world. This is a fat bunch of photocopies detailing the life and problems of Dr. Carl Telleen, who works for the USDA and has been trying to tell the public about flagrant abuses of the trust to protect the public health. He's been publicly reprimanded, ignored by the press for the most part, and still continues his whistle-blowing. What he has to say here will make you think twice about eating USDA-approved meat.

 NEOLOGY Vol. 11 #5 (\$1 from ESFACAS, Box 4071 PSSE, Edmonton, Alta., T6E 4S8, CANADA): The Edmonton Science Fiction and Comic Arts Society is still going strong with this sfzine. The sideways format is novel but attractive, and the contents remain strong. Perhaps of most note is the connection with some Soviet SF fans; other features include fanzine reviews and nifty mimeo art. Also a

good lettercol.

 THE NEW ABOLITIONIST Vol. IV #2 (\$10/yr from Nuclear Free America, 325 E. 25th St., Baltimore, MD 21218): Of course what these people want to abolish is nuclear weapons, and they want to do it simply by making the damned things illegal. Funny, they don't look like Communists to me. Anyhow, this tabloid is basically an extended legislative update on various NFZ campaigns around the country, as well as a place to get supporting literature. Personally, I think they're attacking the symptom instead of the disease, and I'm not sure that dropping bombs will respect NFZ's, but what the heck, everyone needs a hobby.

 NEW FRONTIER Dec. 1986 (\$1.25 from 129 N. 13th St., Philadelphia, PA 19107): These folks prove that you don't have to have slick covers and full-color interior illustrations to be in tune with the New Age. Now, I dunno what you think of New Age writing, but speaking for myself, I can find a lot of value whenever I'm willing to wade through the crap. With that in mind, let me mention some of the valuable parts of this issue: an interview with the indefatigable Barbara Marx Hubbard, an article on "camouflage chic", and Linda Palmarozza's yoga column (which is about a state of mind rather than sticking your left foot in your right ear). The ads, of course, run the gamut from Roling to floatation tanks. All in all, a heck of a lot for the money.

 NEW JERSEY LIBERTARIAN Dec. 1986 (\$10/yr from PO Box 56, Tennent, NJ 07763): Can you imagine, say, the Democrats holding a statewide general meeting at someone's house? Or one of their candidates saying he's run as a Republican if he had more money? Well, both of these things can and do happen to the poor Libertarians in the fair state of New Jersey. Except for reprinted anti war on drugs editorials, this one is entirely filled with meeting schedules and reports and the like.

 THE NEW MUSIC INFORMER #5 (60¢ from Chris Murtland, 3514 Millhaven Rd., Winston-Salem, NC 27106): Well, yes, this is about new music, but don't let the "Informer" part fool you into expecting some huge effort. Chris only publishes a dozen or so pages, but he uses the space wisely (which means he reviews stuff I like, I guess). Among this ish's features are stories on the McGuires, Eugene Chadbourne, Ten Tall Men and Winter Hours. There's also a readers' poll and a few odds and ends.

 THE NEW PRESS Vol. 2 #3 (75¢ from Scott Martin, 127 Ludlow St. #4-C, New York, NY 10002): In the absence of any detectable editorial voice, I can't quite figure out who this is aimed at. It seems to be a somewhat loose and unfocused journal of the arts. There are a couple of downer stories, some poetry, some exceedingly disquieting photographs by Joel-Peter Witkin, a quick article on the situation in South Africa, and an interview with Bill Walton's father in this issue. If there's a unifying thread there, I don't know what it is. The zine is well-produced and looks nice, but why?

 NEW RAGE (PO Box 11492, Eugene, OR 97440): Dan Todd has a new poster out, and he'd probably let you have a copy for an SASE but might welcome some intelligent correspondence to go with it. This one denounces the computerization of the classroom and the consequent alienation of our children from the real world. I think.

 NEWS AND NOTES FROM ALL OVER (22¢ postage from SET, PO Box 10491, Oakland, CA 94610-0491): The Society for the Eradication of Television is starting to spread. The original group in

Albuquerque is still going strong, and now the SF Bay area is heating up. This new periodical from these radical TV dissenters is made up of clippings from, well, all over. Most of it concentrates on a demonstration at UC-Berkeley, where TV sets were smashed by happy passers-by. Now, I still watch TV myself, but I could stop any time I wanted to, so I find these folks interesting but not essential. But you never know when they'll turn out to be right.

NEWS OF THE NEW WORLD Vol. 13 #1 (\$12/yr from FOCP, PO Box 830, Honeydew 2040, SOUTH AFRICA): I dunno what FOCP stands for, but they're an interesting bunch of kooks. Maybe living in South Africa and the resultant seige mentality has gotten to them. This entire magazine is one long rambling screed about the One World Fabian Socialist plot to take over everything and in the process condemn the whites in South Africa to exile or death. They quote everything from Adam Weishaupt to SPIN magazine at one point or another, lapping up all sorts of conspiracy theory and exuding it again in spades. Great stuff.

NEW UNIONIST #117 (30¢ from 621 W. Lake St. #210, Minneapolis, MN 55408): A quick little tabloid that concentrates on demolishing the moral standards of the current system and proposes workplace democracy instead. As usual with this sort of thing -- from whatever alternative -- the critiques are more convincing than the positive suggestions. But it's a cheap look at a possibly new idea.

A NEW WORLD RISING (\$1 (?) from Box 33, 77 Ives St., Providence, RI 02906): A tabloid from the "Proletarian Warriors" group, which is apparently made up of at least two people. Apparently Maoists, certainly some sort of revolutionary socialists, they are currently calling for some sort of disruption of the 1987 Constitution Bicentennial festivities in Philadelphia. I don't find their reasons for this particularly cogent, but it could develop into something. Much as I am confused and turned off by their ideological posturings, I am appalled to read of the Providence cops beating up their leader. But I guess that's a risk that revolutionaries have to take.

NIGHTMARES OF REASON #1 (\$2 from PO Box 278, Cambridge, MA 02141): This is the successor to the now-defunct NOTES FROM THE UNDERGROUND, produced in an interesting and attractive format (the pages are bound off-center and numbered A-Z on one half and 1-26 on the other). It's sort of an attempt to help define a new popular culture, with fanzine reviews, Little Free Press reprints, an interview with the guy behind Bag of Wire, and mail-art type stuff all rolled into one nifty package. One side features sort of intellectual stuff and the other is art, poetry and short stories. Nothing made any huge impact on me, but the overall feeling is nice.

NO 5 (\$2 from Johnson/Meyer, 826 W. Belmont #3F, Chicago, IL 60657): This is the "Arts & Letters" issue of this literary zine, and sure enough there are art and letters inside. There are also poems, but none of those ring my chimes. The letters vary -- from what I hope are phony rejection letters to chattiness about writing to just plain chattiness. T.K. Splake contributes a couple of "Alaskan Letters" that read like blank verse, sort of an interesting crossover. And a lot of the art is from the Man with the Mac, Zen Sutherland. Strange.

NO IDEA Vol. 1 #3 (\$1 from Droog Productions, 3925 SW 3rd Ave., Gainesville, FL 32607): Basically, this is an interview pfanzine. Oh sure, there are some reviews, but they're tucked way in the back where they won't bother anyone. So who do

these guys talk to? Thought you'd never ask: 10,000 Maniacs, UK Subs (about five lies worth), Guadalcanal Diary, Brian Brain, Jesus and Mary Chain, Meat Puppets. That enough? There's more, but we're not talking about Bob Dylan or anyone, OK? Sample question: "What is the first word that comes to mind when someone says 'lungcheese'?"

THE NOISE #57 (\$8/yr from 74 Jamaica St., JP, Boston, MA 02130): Five years old and still going strong, this one covers music starting from Boston and spiraling out to wherever. From the Flange and Sisters' gossip column to Mr. McNasty's fun page (for the little tykes) there's a lot to make you smile here, but it's intermixed with serious music coverage. Well, some of it is serious, even if Arf records does feature prominently in this issue. And believe it or not, Throwing Muses is only mentioned once this time around. Who's next for the editor's heart?

NOMOS Nov./Dec. 1986 (\$3 from 727 S. Dearborn #212, Chicago, IL 60605): NOMOS is one of the few publications that I've watched grow from obscurity to the point where they're almost too respectable to review in FF. Their "spontaneous order" vision of libertarian theory has been a huge success, and their willingness to open their pages to movement debates hasn't hurt either. Topics include American anarchist history, the nature of spontaneous orders, and proper libertarian strategies.

NON-STOP BANTER #10 (\$1.50 from Debbie Novak, 16700 S. 94th Ave., Orland Park, IL 60462): This pfanzine has chosen to improve by refinement rather than growth. Instead of listing a zillion fanzines (there are others of us stupid enough to do that), they interview the editors of three. Instead of reviewing every bit of new music under the sun, they team-review selected platters. The result is a feeling of some depth without heft. Interviews this time include the Feelies and Weird Summer.

NORTHERN SUN Nov. 1986 (\$10/yr from 1519 E. Franklin Ave., Minneapolis, MN 55404): An alternative tabloid that covers quite a variety of subjects. Although the focus of this issue is nominally on South Africa and apartheid, other topics pop in including the Honeywell Project, Nicaragua, Indian rights, the Indonesian government's relocation of its people, and much more. Generally liberal in tone and standing for all sorts of good causes, NS is earnest but not strident in tone. News you won't find many other places, and generally they're pretty prompt with it.

NOTES FROM OBLIVION #16 (\$1 or The Usual from Jay Harber, 626 Paddock Lane, Libertyville, IL 60048): The word "screed" springs to mind. Actually, Jay would like letters, tapes -- communication -- from his readers more than paltry money (you can send the paltry money to me instead). Over the course of a couple of photoreduced pages he rambles on about Irangate, Star Trek, psychiatry, and assorted odds and ends. After 16 issues this zine is still looking for an editorial voice and an audience -- maybe you can supply part of the equation.

NOTHING BUT RECORD REVIEWS (\$1 from Mykel Board, c/o Seidboard World Enterprises, 75 Bleecker St., New York, NY 10012): Mykel has been writing record reviews for a few years, and now he's trying to do for independent music sort of what FACTSHEET FIVE is doing for fanzines. The reviews are a paragraph each, in no particular order so you'll stand a better chance of being exposed to new things, and generally good. If he doesn't like something, he describes it instead of slagging it. A lot of imports here, and a lot of things you'd

never find out about anywhere else. If you buy indie music, go for it.

NOVOID #4 (C\$2 or The Usual from Colin Hinz, 1118 College Dr., Saskatoon, Sask, S7N 0W2, CANADA): A sfanzine in the more or less traditional mold, with lots of nice stfnal art and a fair number of words in between. Of interest in this issue is the crossover between the two, namely Dave D'Amassa's explanations of the cover art which add a whole new, er, dimension to the zine. In the more usual writing, the prize must go to Robert Runte's column "You know it's Time to Gafiate When...", with a nod to the coverage of both mainstream and alternative comic books.

NO WIRE HANGERS #1 (Free from Jennifer Rienstra, 4182 Hillcrest Ln., Deephaven, MI 55391): Jennifer's letter says this is free but I'm sure she wouldn't mind getting the 22¢ stamp it takes to mail. A short pfanzine dedicated to Christian bands from a variety of genres: straight rock, sixties stuff, industrial, hardcore, and more. Reviews a batch of records to try and demolish the ideas that all Christian music is the same or all of it is boring.

OAKDALE LEGAL ASSISTANCE UPDATE Sept. 1986 (Donation from Oakdale Legal Assistance, PO Box 930, Oakdale, LA 71463): Oakdale is the middle of nowhere place that the INS is using as a holding pen for Central American refugees before deporting them. A few volunteer attorneys are attempting to fight this tide through representing the aliens at hearings and trying to keep at least a few of them from being murdered. It's rough work, but not as rough as staying in a prison with no legal rights to speak of and not even people who can speak your language. They need help. This is one chance to fight back against the administration's Central American policies right here on American soil.

THE OFFENSE NEWSLETTER #71 (\$1 from PO Box 12614, Columbus, OH 43212): Actually a buck will probably get you a couple of copies but it seems like a good price. If I were going to guess which pfanzine is sure to reach 100 issues, this one seems like a good bet, since editor TKA just keeps pumpin' em out. Music reviews, local groups, movies and intransigent opinions combine in tiny print to give one plenty to think about. The letters column reads like a Who's Who of the punk world at times.

OFF THE DEEP END #2 (\$1.50 from Tim Cridland, PO Box 85874, Seattle, WA 98145-1874): Yow! Good stuff. OTDE is devoted to spreading news about strange oddball stuff. A few quick glimpses at this issue's contents: 22 shots fired in the Kennedy assassination; windshield pitting by mysterious forces; Fluoridation for Stupidification; perpetual motion; holes at the earth's poles, and much more. Some overlap with the topics of CRITIQUE, but OTDE has pictures, a friendlier, chattier tone and less conspiracy theory. This issue also includes a letter from the one and only Kerry Thornley and a rundown on the Ernst Zundel censorship case in Canada.

OKANOGAN NATURAL NEWS #23 (\$1 from PO Box 187, Oroville, WA 98844): Or 60¢ in the region, which is mostly the Columbia River basin. This is an impressive little tabloid that sticks close to local issues but treats them with enough care to make interesting reading (well, maybe I wasn't that interested by the stuff on salmon runs). Alas, a lot of the local news is bad: pesticides, nukes, and so on. But these are more than outweighed by positive news -- the town of Republic becoming a community, advice on hydropower, and thoughts for world peace. These people have bit off a chunk of the world's

problems that they can help with, and are doing just that.

THE OPENER (\$95/yr from Dr. Regis A. Barbier, Rua Democrito de Souza Filho, 235, Madalena, Recife, Pernambuco 50.000, BRAZIL): It's too bad the price is so hefty because I know a lot of you would like to see it. Well, you can always drop by and look at my file copy (please phone first). I think this arrived thanks to Project Freenetwork, a libertarian group, but what this has to do with that I don't know. Sample sentences: "Quantic is an utopia, as everything else. It is a perfect human being". Sort of reminds me of Bucky Fuller, but far less coherent, and with slightly better drawings. This guy is convinced that he's on the trail of Something Important, but for the life of me I can't figure out what.

OPTION K² (\$2.50 from PO Box 491034, Los Angeles, CA 90049): A huge pfanzine (106 pages) that comprehensively covers independent music through hundreds (thousands?) of small reviews. Fortunately for me, they don't do many pfanzines. They also print articles on a wide variety of music: you'll find Savage Republic, The Brigade, Kip Hanrahan and Gamelan music. Ads, music technology, little radio and plenty of photographs too.

THE ORWELLIAN TIMES #6 (\$1 (?) from PO Box 22431, St. Louis, MO 63126): A rather crusty Constitutionalist periodical that finds not only the government, but others in the Patriot movement, guilty of acting foolishly & dangerously. Along with the hard money and IRS concerns, there is stuff here on the implementation of Karl Marx's planks in America, public schooling and freemasons, and communist infiltrators.

OUT #1 (\$1.50 from PO Box 1280, Cambridge, MA 02238): The latest entry in the SubGenial/Dada/Discordian/Confused magazine sweepstakes. Some of this is just stupid ("Constant love is a stream of antinomies varying randomly within a fixed ambit") but fortunately, most of it isn't. The good stuff includes a reprint of Bob Black's inflammatory essay on Feminism as Fascism, Dr. Bob Connors' story of The Trip South, and St. Byron Werner's enlightened comic strip. Why is Boston becoming a cultural Mecca now that I've left? Is it my breath?

OUTER SHELL #16 (SASE from PO Box 7053, St. Petersburg, FL 33734): It's sort of amazing how much Roy Harper can get on two pages. Besides the usual Pigshit column from Gary "Pig" Gold, this issue sports a batch of Beatles trivia and nostalgia, "Swamp Notes", and Shane Williams' column on Beatles cover versions.

OUT O' THE BLUE REVIEW Vol. II #3 (\$1 from PO Box 1117, Mechanicsville, VA 23111): A tabloid literary paper that is a bit more laid back and variegated than most. Besides the expected poetry and prose, there are interviews with musicians, humor columns, and black and white photos. The photos and humor I liked; the poetry was so-so; the fiction I didn't think a whole lot of, but then anyone can have an off day. They're looking for contributors, if that rings your chimes.

OVERTHROW Spring '87 (\$1 from PO Box 392, Canal St. Stn., New York, NY 10013): The Yippie tabloid. This issue includes a centerfold "Reagan's Cash to the Contras Game", and plenty of coverage of Irangate. After all, the Yippies have been accusing the government of coke smuggling for years and no one has been listening. Also coverage of the war in Central America, GE boycott, police spying, radioactive veggies, the prospect of a computerized society (reprinted from PROCESSED WORLD and somewhat

confused), and much much more. An indispensable guide to leftwing conspiracy theory.

OWN THE WHOLE WORLD #14 (80¢ from 812 Stadelman Ave., Akron, OH 44320): A pfanzone which concentrates on overlooked music and music near the edge instead of underground media favorites. How else could you explain interviews with My Dad Is Dead and Urge Overkill in one issue? There is also a pile of record, tape and zine reviews, all stirred together, which makes for interesting reading; you don't usually find Forced Exposure and Phantom Tollbooth in the same column. Hmmm, maybe a new trend, bands named after zines? Naaaaah.

PACIFIST BLUES COMIX (\$1 & 39¢ postage from Fatalistic Funnies, 2910 W. Ashland Ave., Muncie, IN 47304): Ed Emmer, who did the bacover of FACTSHEET FIVE #20 and the front cover of this issue (that should be enough recommendation right there) is back with another strange little comic. The situation we have here is one with a dedicated pacifist faced with a Neonazi murderer, smoking gun and all. What to do? How to do it? Only the last panel can tell for sure.

PAGAN PARENTS' LEAGUE NEWSLETTER #9 (SASE from PO Box 423-P, Bay Shore, NY 11706): This is another one with a non-deceptive title. Actually, this issue doesn't have a whole lot on pagan parenting since the editor has been sick; rather, it's a quick roundup of catch-up news. The guest editorial on "Coming Out of the Broom Closet" is well-done and might provoke some interesting discussion in the pagan community.

THE PAN-AMERICAN INDIAN ASSOCIATION NEWS #18 (\$12/yr from PO Box 244, Nocatee, FL 33864): A Native American tabloid. Their main concern is with promoting the revitalization and rediscovery of the spiritual ways of their fathers. Articles cover, besides spiritual matters, Native American history, current leaders, and doing research on one's American Indian roots.

THE PATRIOT REVIEW Vol. 1 #5 (\$15/yr from PO Box 314, Clackamas, OR 97015): A new Constitutionalist publication to add to my growing collection. This one seems more down to earth than some of the others -- while there is the same basic concern for inalienable rights, there are less crackpot schemes to avoid the income tax and, indeed, a warning about some other crackpot schemes plaguing the Patriot movement. The only legal brief I see is an attempt to deny the state of Oregon's jurisdiction in a traffic ticket case (good luck, folks). They also publish suppressed health news and letters that disagree with previous articles, which is unusual enough to deserve mention.

PAWS NEWS #4 (\$5/yr from PO Box 1037, Lynnwood, WA 98046): This comes from the Progressive Animal Welfare Society, being a special article on pound release in Washington (the practice of selling impounded animals for research). It's well-researched and well-presented, and I think it's an important topic, but I strongly object to the method of presentation that PAWS chose. Specifically, they chose to play on emotions as much as possible, mixing appeals to the heart in with rational debate and trying to tar anyone who disagrees with the brush of brutality. I'm sure they'd see it as presenting concrete cases to make abstract thought easier. It's a tough issue, but unless you have a strong stomach, don't buy this.

PC NEWSLETTER 14 (\$5/6 issues from 1725 E. 115th St., Cleveland, OH 44106): From Pollution Control, an independent distributor of new music to independent radio stations. In other words, PC fills

an important gap in getting new things to mutants. Every month they take in records, mail them out to the participating stations, and print an airplay report. Then they fill the rest of the newsletter with reviews and news of the indie music industry, much of which is really new and interesting. Bands you might want to check these folks out for your next release. Anyone else interested in things like ASCAP/BMI royalties or running a small radio station will just want to subscribe.

PEACE PLANS (\$3 from John Zube, 7 Oxley St., Berrima NSW 2577, AUSTRALIA): John is a tireless activist for (1) panarchy [a libertarian political idea] and (2) microfiche. The latest of the Peace Plans series (now up to well over 600 microfiche) is the "Monetary Freedom Newsletter and Microfiche", consisting of four written pages and a couple of microfiche. John has undoubtedly done more to make scarce libertarian ideas available at a reasonable price than anyone else in the world. However, his efforts to get people to read the darned things have been less than successful. When I finally get easy access to a microfiche reader I'll tell you more about the content of these things -- meanwhile, if you have one and you're interested in liberty, you should get in touch. He's also taking contributions of material to be microfiched.

PEPTALK Winter 1986 (\$1 (?) from PEP, PO Box 3912, Eugene, OR 97403): That stands for Polyfidelitous Educational Productions, a group who believe in something that isn't monogamy but isn't quite promiscuity either. I guess polyfidelity is most easily described as a closed group marriage. Where the earlier issues concentrated mostly on explaining the idea, these days the articles are focusing on practical problems and letters from those practicing this or similar ideas in real life. Includes some folks recruiting, but most are just looking for kindred souls to talk to.

PHALLOS Dec. 1986 (\$5/yr from St. Priapus Church, 583 Grove St., San Francisco, CA 94102): Sex and religion do mix, at least according to the Rev. Don Jackson who runs this group (Meese must be turning in his cushy office chair). The SPC is a gay church working in the tradition of one of the suppressed Gospels. But they're not just a phallic worship group; they also work to feed and provide for homeless and hungry gay men. Also they run a phone buddy club and provide information on anti-castration groups.

PHFUDD! #6 (\$2 + 75¢ postage from Chris Stigliano, 714 Shady Ave., Sharon, PA 16146): A pfanzone that is about evenly split between tons of music and articles about things like the Electric Eels, wrestling, and Pere Ubu. The reviews are kinda funny, especially when they take a moment out to slag Bruce Springsteen or some other major artist. Also included are a few comics by Brian Wormsby, what a funny guy. Only 24 pages, but the print is microreduced so there's a heck of a lot here.

PHOEBE Vol. 3 #9 (55¢ from James MacDougall, 1162 Rts. 5 & 20, Waterloo, NY 13165): "The Newsletter of Eccentricity", this one collects oddball stuff from all over and fires it off at the unsuspecting reader. This issue features weird Christmas gifts for the lunatic who has everything and the Bad TV Hall of Fame. Don't expect to see it, though, as James runs out of every issue quickly. I'm sure the next one will be full of funny stuff too.

PHOENIX SYSTEMS, INC. CATALOG (PO Box 3339, Evergreen, CO 80439): I'm sure the paramilitary right already knows where to buy grenades, flare guns, and the parts to make your AR-15 an automatic

weapon. Now you do too. No price, but I'm sure they'll send you the catalog for a buck, and you can read all about booby trap devices, barbed razor tape, camouflage face creamballistic knives, and other fun toys. Also sells literature detailing all the illegal things you're not supposed to do to make the grenades live again.

PHOSPHOROUS FLOURISH #18 (75¢ & 2 stamps from John R., PO Box 2479, Stn. A, Champaign, IL 61820): A mail art network type thing that demonstrates a certain distrust of the current world order. An ad for "General Despotics", a faked FBI Arrest poster, distorted xerox art, Wernicke's President, and more. No doubt they're looking for contributors; also, the addresses of the artists for this issue are given, a rare bonus.

THE PIG PAPER #28 (Donation from 20 Cotton Dr., Mississauga, ONT L5G 1Z9, CANADA): Every once in a while Gary "Pig" Gold cuts loose with this one-sheeter zine. This is the "Special Brian Epstein Memorial Issue", devoted of course to the late John Lennon. My fave headline: "John Lennon Has Come Back as a Crow!". More debris from the coffers of popular culture.

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER Spring/Summer 1986 (Contribution from Pilgrim Institute, 52549 Gumwood Rd., Granger, IN 46530): Dedicated to "American Christian Education", these folks are gearing up for the bicentennial of the US Constitution by systematically misrepresenting the religious character of America's founding fathers. They also offer a mail-order college program, which probably isn't accredited, because if it was they would mention it. I wonder how many other periodicals like this are out there trying to counteract the efforts of most of my readers?

PIRATES OF DOOM #2 (\$1 from John Barbisan, 729 Terlin Blvd., Mississauga, ONT L5H 1T2, CANADA): Mostly hardcore Toronto pfanzone that also offers ranting space to local yoyos and photos of skateboard antics. Hype, Social Suicide, Samhain, lots more bands. A stark and glaring black and white look. Also review records and talks about the local scene.

PKDS NEWSLETTER #12 (\$6/yr from PO Box 611, Glen Ellen, CA 95442): This is the official newsletter of the Philip K. Dick Society. Dick's writing now seems to be inspiring more interest than it ever did when he was alive, or to be more precise, the scattered interested parties are finally getting together. Of particular note in this issue is a short section from the "Exegesis" that dominated so much of his latter years. Also contains much publishing news, rare photographs, letters and quotes from Dick and those who knew him.

PLEC PEACE NEWSMAGAZINE (50¢ from 4354 1/2 University Way NE #205, Seattle, WA 98105): From the Pacific Life Education Center comes this pro-peace tabloid. They promote a somewhat mystical view of "peacework as lifework", combined with down-to-earth coverage of such trouble spots as Sri Lanka, where an unnoticed bit of repression is going on against the Tamil people.

THE POISONED PEN Vol. 6 #4 (\$4 from Jeffrey Meyerson, 50 First Place, Brooklyn, NY 11231): A huge (70 pages) zine of mystery reviews. In fact, most of this is short book reviews, but there are also longer pieces, some treating a particular author and others delving into a genre or theme. There's a page of extracted classic lines, and a couple of profiles of famous fictional sleuths. Although I found myself disagreeing vehemently with some of the reviews of books I'd read, I'm impressed

by the sheer quantity of the reading done by their staff. Looks like a good entree into the field, as they cover older things as well as the new books.

THE POPE #1 (\$1 from Tim Adams, 306 Zahm Hall, Notre Dame, IN 46556): Yes, there is a pfanzone coming out of the home of the Fightin' Irish. Tim interviews a few groups, including Sonic Youth and Dead Milkmen, and while the questions might not be as incisive as possible they're not the typical stupid beer and blather either. He also reviews a passle of records, many of which I've never heard of (so what else is new?) and reprints some of the snarking correspondence between himself and the campus radio station.

POPULAR REALITY #16 (50¢ from PO Box 3402, Ann Arbor, MI 48106): Features such luminaries as Blaster Al Ackerman and Bob Black ranting and raving amidst the debris from the explosion of modern society. SubGenial stuff, Ron Reagan spewing nonsense, and an inside account of Maoist stupidity grace this issue. The letters column reads like a small third-world war, always a sign of a lively zine. Don't let your parents catch you reading this trash, though.

POSITIVE OUTLOOK #1 (SASE from Brett Anderson, Rt. 24, RD 2, Mendham, NJ 07945): A four-page pfanzone that combines a lot of typical punkoid art -- skulls, gore, funny hairstyles, grinsches -- with a concern for peace and justice. An interesting synthesis.

POSTCARD COLLECTOR Vol. 4 #11 (\$1.50 from Krause Publications, 700 E. State St., Iola, WI 54990): Or their press release says tell 'em you saw it here and you'll get a free copy (let me know if this works). Hey, everyone has a hobby, and apparently a lot of them collect postcards. Articles on valuable postcards, thoughts on the hobby, and lots and lots of ads from buyers and sellers. Subscribe and you'll get a postcard calendar set. Don't subscribe and you may still get intrigued by a sample copy -- or rush to dig up the old postcards in your attic and see what they're worth.

POSTWAR (\$1 from PO Box 6613, Fullerton, CA 92631): These folks are still around, although their output has not been high of late. They specialize in graphics and miniposters that poke fun at the current culture by taking it out of its stupid context. The latest is a little handbill from Ronald Duck, which some of you have seen in Zine Exchange packages.

THE PRAGMATIST Vol. 4 #3 (\$10/yr from PO Box 392, Forest Grove, PA 18922): "A Utilitarian Approach" to promoting libertarianism, this one relies on pointing out the inconsistencies in governmental actions (for example, regulating plane flights over the Grand Canyon where things are already pretty safe) and suggesting that maybe the market could do it better. Well-written and only occasionally sarcastic. If political decisions were made by reasoning they'd have a pretty strong case.

THE PRINTER'S DEVIL Vol. 1 #2 (On Request from Mother of Ashes Press, PO Box 135, Harrison, ID 83833): A support journal for the small press. Mainly concerned with conventional (offset) printing technologies, but they've already talked a bit about block printing and xerography, and desktop publishing is supposed to be on the way. Looking for input from anyone with any printing experience. Could be a great source of ideas and money-saving hints for those of us moving towards larger printing bills.

THE PROJECT Vol. III #5,6,7 (\$20/yr from

A-Albion Research, PO Box 20273, Ferndale, MI 48220): I think I'll let him speak for himself: "An on-going private research network dedicated to applying the scientific method...to conspiracy theories of history. Current hypotheses revolve around probing the London-centered world money cartel and its ancient enemy, the Vatican." The editor has a large library of conspiracy stuff to draw on, and endless patience for trying to find the key that will make sense of it all. Best source around for new developments in this field -- maybe the only source.

PROJECT ZARATHUSTRA (SASE from Michael Grubb, 805 1/2 Onslow St., Durham, NC 27705): This is Michael's perzine, in which he talks about whatever he pleases, which is mostly comics. But besides the comics stuff (which goes past me as it ever does -- the last comic I read was an issue of CHERRY POPTART) he sneaks in thoughts on the esthetics of music videos, a quick report on the Worldcon, and news of a trip to London. Available in a couple of apas or to anyone interested.

PSYCHIC PATHWAYS Vol. 4 #6 (\$15/yr from PO Box 418, Woodmere, NY 11598): These people put out a couple of pages of articles (on crystal healing and "soul qualification" (sounds like final exams) in this issue) and surround them with a mass of ads. They pitch themselves heavily to New Age advertisers, claiming a 16,000 circulation. Anyhow, if you want to know where to buy astrological computer programs, get Christian mystical schooling, or learn about "Healing with horoscopes", this may do you some good. Otherwise, don't bother.

PUBLIC POLICY EDUCATION FUND SPECIAL REPORT #36 (On request (?) from 161 E. Pine St., Grove City, PA 16127): I think these people are pushing an individualistic viewpoint, but it's hard to tell, because this report does seem to be pretty objective. The subject is "Africa -- Its Increasing Economic Dilemmas", and although the bottom line is that internal socialism and not the vestiges of imperialism is destroying the region, the facts seem pretty well documented. Of course, even documented facts may be biased by omission to make a case, but since so few of us know what's going on in that region, any facts at all are useful.

PUKE ON THE WORLD #17 (SASE from 3133 Harriet Ave. S, Minneapolis, MN 55408): A small zine with something to offend nearly everyone. Those not in the mood to be offended can stick to the adventures of Pygmoïd, the boy who thinks he's a nuthatch. The rest of you can read the Ed Asshole "My Drunken Opinions" column or the continuing light porno or the rest of the ranting and raving here.

PWA COALITION NEWSLINE #16 (\$20/yr or FREE to PWA's/PWarc's from 263A W. 19th St. #125, New York, NY 10011): PWA stands for People With AIDS. Now, I don't know if any of my readers are diagnosed as having AIDS or AIDS-related complex -- and frankly it's none of my business -- but if you do, you should drop these folks a line. Besides providing a variety of support group services in the city of New York, they publish letters and articles from PWA's all over. Some report on experiences with unorthodox medical theory, some memorialize others who have died, and some just try to counteract the dismal "AIDS is 100% fatal" programming that the major media indulges in.

RADIANCE NEWSLETTER Vol. 1 #4 (On request from 202 W. 4th, Olympia, WA 98501): A herb & massage store that also sells futons, oil lamps and so on, Radiance puts out a newsletter for their customers. I don't know what they'll do if they start getting

requests from across the country, but you're welcome to find out. This catalog also has articles about massage, health, patpourris and herbs.

RAGTIME #4 (75¢ from PO Box 155674, Minneapolis, MN 55415): A fanzine devoted to Christian music that's definitely in the fan tradition rather than being a well-heeled slick, as many of the Christian music pubs are. Blackhouse, Cactus World News and Tonio K are in this issue, along with some movie reviews and an interview with Geoff Moore.

RANDOM WRITINGS #10 (\$1 cash or \$2 check/MO from Jim Stumm, PO Box 29, Hiler Branch, Buffalo, NY 14223): Just what it says, the place where Jim dumps his own writings that don't go elsewhere. I particularly recommend this issue as it features and account of his visit to Rayo, of Vonu fame, back in 1971. The other major topic of this issue is the possibility of financing the government non-coercively, a debate with Diogenes of Panarchia from the Connection.

RAUNCH-O-RAMA #11 (25¢ from Brad Goins, PO Box 2432, Stn. A, Champaign, IL 61820): A pfanzine for fans of abrasive music. There are distinctions here that I but dimly grasp, in particular the one between Abrasive Music Theatre and Abrasive Cabaret. But that's why you should consult a specialist on these matters, and Brad is one. This issue also contains his industrial/abrasive/whatever gift selections for Xmas.

THE REALIST #102 (\$2 from Paul Krassner, PO Box 1230, Venice, CA 90294): This was the first issue I ever saw, and now I understand why so many of my friends recommended it. Paul Krassner is a wiseass, and he doesn't like the way things are heading in this country, and that's a perfect combination to pander to my sense of humor. From "The Supreme Court Sucks" to "Piss Wars" to "Ronald Kadayf", there are a lot of things to tickle the funny bone here. This may not stop the swing of the pendulum, but it will help make it more bearable.

REALISTIC LIVING #5 (\$10/yr from 7110 San Mateo #130, Dallas, TX 75223): "A Journal on Ethics and Religion", but most of this issue is about politics. Editor Gene Marshall attempts to outline how his own "sober realist" position differs from ordinary left and right thinking and from "New Age Optimism". (Incidentally, I was pleased to see another debunking of the hundredth monkey nonsense). There's also an ethical case against nuclear energy and a variety of book and movie reviews. Murray Bookchin and Kirkpatrick Sale are cited as seminal sober realist thinkers.

REALITY NOW #6 (\$2 from PO Box 6326, Stn. A, Toronto, ONT M5W 1P7, CANADA): An anarchist tabloid that is concentrating on prisoner support and native American issues. They're on an organizational upswing lately, with the activists in Toronto gathering their numbers to form the Toronto Anarchist Black Cross as a prisoner support group. Excellent coverage of various prisoners, the Ohio 7, and Big Mountain. But why refer to the Big Mountain struggle in terms of a sovereign Dine nation and POWs? Must anarchists seize statist terminology for their own? If we need to call a struggle a "war" in order to legitimize it, something is wrong.

REAR GARDE Vol. 3 #7 (\$1 (?) from CRSG Radio Sir George, 1455 De Maisonneuve, Montreal, PQ H3G 1M8, CANADA): This is another tabloid that's free in its home town and tough to get otherwise, which is odd since only one page is radio-related and the rest is pretty standard pfanzine stuff. Check out the editorial: "Punk is gone, to be replaced by what made it possible: Hardcore, Oi, Cowpunk, Industrial,

psychobilly, Electronic, and countless revivals and one-shots." This attitude may explain why I've heard of no one here except 8th Route Army, but a more likely hypothesis is that they concentrate on local music. Maybe I'll bop up the Northway some time and check it out.

REBEL GRAPHICS #1 (\$2.50 from Manna Underground Press, 3833 1/2 Mahoning Ave., Youngstown, OH 44515): Multimedia comics/art/photos/prose/poetry stories done up in a newsprint format. There's an unusual twist to this stuff -- although it features battling demons and chasing horses and other whatnot, most of it is evangelical in nature. I don't know if the art will help it reach those who would otherwise be turned off or not, but the graphic content is very well done.

RED BUDDHA #21 (\$1 from Mind-Way Church, PO Box 664, Mansfield, OH 44901): From the group also known as Zendokan Budokai of America comes this journal of spiritual martial stuff. "Cultivate the mind and make savage the body," runs their motto, and this time they let Lord Krishna lead the fun with excerpts from the Bhagavad-Gita. The samurai tradition also puts in an appearance. The group is especially interested in doing some prison support work, so if you're behind bars and interested just drop them a line for more info.

RELIGION WATCH Vol. 1 #8 (\$14/yr from PO Box 652, N. Bellmore, NY 11710): Editor Richard Cimino keeps tabs on upwards of 500 periodicals and digests out the trends in the modern religious world for his readers. Here's a sampling of topics in this issue: Christian press reaction to the Libya bombing; Unificationist ecumenicism; the Pope's stand on liberation theology; the Mormon stand on science; and lots more. Covers all the denominations I can think of and then some.

RENEGADE #3 (50¢ (?) from PO Box 41822, St. Petersburg, FL 33710): A newsletter for Native Americans and their sympathizers. There are short sketches of various Native American beliefs, and bits of historical notes on the interactions of the Europeans with the inhabitants of this continent, but the most useful part looks like the calendar of events. This issue discusses the Mormon attempt to convert Native Americans and the proposed canonization of Father Serra.

RESEARCH (PO Box 70224, Seattle, WA 98107): One of my correspondents sent along an envelope with this return address full of oddball stuff. I'm not sure when it dates from or what it takes to get on the mailing list, so perhaps a letter would be in order. This guy explains how to tell good salt from bad salt, clear up your pimples by eating only raw foods, gives the lowdown on the government stealing your bank account, sells motor oil with wonderful properties, and otherwise goes off on tangents. A real mishmash.

RESIST #189 (\$1 (?) from One Summer St., Somerville, MA 02144): The call here is to resist illegitimate authority by all means necessary. This newsletter tackles various and sundry revolutionary or progressive social issues -- this issue has articles on the situation in Chile, with an analysis of the various opposition groups, and on the use of the US National Guard in Honduras. But the real thrust of Resist, Inc. is to take in pledges and distribute them in the form of grants to other peace and progressive groups.

RESISTANCE NEWS #22 (\$15/yr from National Resistance Committee, PO Box 42488, San Francisco, CA 94142): In contrast to RESIST, these people have a narrowly focused program: they are fighting draft

registration and future conscription. They urge people not to register, provide such help as they can in making decisions, and keep up to date the tally on cases being prosecuted. (To date 20 out of 6 1/2 million nonregistrants have been tried). There are also articles that focus this concern into a wider context: one on a South African on the run in his homeland for nonregistration, and one on the unenviable place of women in the draft resistance movement. Recommended.

RESONANCE #5 (\$1.50 from Judy Wall, PO Box 64, Sumterville, FL 34267): This is the newsletter of the MENSA Bioelectromagnetics Special Interest Group. The stuff they publish is an interesting mix; some of it is (at least from the standpoint of conventional physics, which I am familiar and happy with) garbage, kook stuff, call it what you will. But some is interesting and refers directly to current research -- like Kathy Trott's thesis research on the effect of magnetic fields on mice, reported in issue #3. I'm sure there are interesting things to be discovered in the field of electromagnetic radiation interacting with living cells, but I'm also sure that the subject attracts those who used to try to square the circle.

RHETORIC FARM #7 (\$1 from J. Gruener, 920 N. 3rd Ave., Tucson, AZ 85705): Local music in a southwestern pfnzine. But wait, it's more than that, as there are poetry and (gruesomely depressing) short stories before you get to the music stuff. Once you arrive, you can find everything from Tucsonites (the Johnnies) to national figures (Camper Van Beethoven). Short and sweet, with a column of Tucson music gossip. It would be free if you lived there, but of course almost no one does.

RIDDIM Vol. 2 #37 (\$10/yr from PO Box 14301, Chicago, IL 60614): This is a tabloid paper dedicated to reggae music. This poses a problem for the dedicated reviewer who knows absolutely nothing about the subject. Still, I can at least try to tell you what is here: a couple of spiritual articles, a page of poetry, an interview with Edi Fitzroy, an interview with Roy Ayers, and stories on James Cotton and Black Uhuru. If this is good stuff, someone tell me.

RIDING THE BLINDS #7 (75¢ from 1424 N. Concord Ave., Santa Maria, CA 93454): Richard Lopez goes batshit with record reviews this issue. Well, there are a couple poems from one Garibaldi Jones (apparently in the Bukowski tradition) and the tail end of a Killdozer interview, but mostly, there are reviews. And Richard isn't nearly as forgiving as the FF staff are (or else we get a higher class of records to review); some things are dismissed with a glare, while others are rehabilitated from mainstreamdom, like the Bangles. But what can you say about a review staff that hates Throwing Muses and loves Women of the SS?

RIVERSIDE QUARTERLY Vol. 8 #1 (\$2 from Leland Sapiro, Box 833-044, Richardson, TX 75083): A small sfzine that strives for a higher standard of literacy than do most in the field. Leland publishes the occasional story, articles about SF (like Mary Weinkauff's linguistic speculation, "Future Talk") and longish critical articles (like Gary Willis' analysis of Le Guin). Jim Harmon's "Harmony" column is reminiscences from a previous age of sfandom, and the lettercol is conducted with dignity and integrity. Somehow this all seems a lot more personal than the sort of SF criticism one gets from university presses; I suspect this is because Leland's roots are firmly in the field.

ROADKILL #1 (50¢ from 615 Fonsulac Dr., East

Peoria, IL 61611): A new and so far rather short hardcore pfanzine, but the price is right. Interviews this time with 10-96 and Withdraw, hardcore artwork, and a promise of an interview soon with GG Allin. As the editor points out, it's not a great zine, but have you seen anything better from East Peoria?

ROAR-SHACK #1 & 2 (\$1 for both from A.C. Samish, 1306 W. 39 1/2 St., Austin, TX 78756): Somewhere in this it says, "Hey! These aren't comix -- they're Roarshack Psycho-pictures!" and I think that sums it up pretty well. I really hope this stuff comes from dreams or hypnotism or drugs or something because if Samish thinks of it stone cold sober and awake he's one sick puppy. These mildly racy not-comix feature walking telephones, crazed police, do-it-yourself brain surgery and a scantily-clad biker gal who rides from the one book into the next without stopping for any story continuity. Crazed stuff.

ROCK N' BISCUITS Vol. 1 #9 (\$5/6 issues from Libby Gast, Rte 3, Box 3341, Trinity, NC 27370): Hey, there's rock in North Carolina! I don't know why I should find that surprising; maybe it's just the depth of Libby's coverage that inspires me. Depth means more than asking the band what they had for breakfast; it includes interviewing producers and club owners, as is done in this issue. The bands aren't absent, of course: Light in August and Flat Duo Jets are featured in this issue. RN'B is also starting a new review column this issue, by Todd Goss, called "Bands I Personally Like But Other People May Find Difficult to Listen to." I think that says it all.

ROCKPOOL Vol. 6 #5 (\$1.75 from 83 Leonard St., 2nd Fl., New York, NY 10013): This biweekly bills itself as "America's most comprehensive and respected professional newsletter devoted to the growth of new music in its most exciting dimensions". I guess that accounts for the pages full of boring club and radio playlists, and for the coverage of exciting new groups like The Fall. Well, they do also mention Red Lorry, Yellow Lorry and bands like that, but don't hold your breath waiting for fanzine reviews or a mention of, say, the latest Wallmen cassette. Nope, not in a zine with Prince on the cover. If you're deathly interested in which dance cuts are hot in the clubs, go for it; otherwise, why spend \$65 a year?

THE ROGUE RAVEN #35 (The Usual from Frank Denton, 14654 - 8th Ave. SW, Seattle, WA 98166): This is a sfanzine turning into a letter substitute, or lettersub as they're sometimes known. Basically what that means is that Frank is too busy to publish, too busy to write letters, but not too busy to jot down a few pages of personal notes and send them off to friends. In this issue he talks about a recent trip to V-Con, his search for fantasy and SF worth reading, and the World Cup. Pleasant, but not much more if you don't know the guy.

THE ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION (SASE from Rev. Frank, PO Box 56942, Phoenix, AZ 85079): A single-sheet SubGenial rant. Dark mutterings about the end times and crackpot nonsense about Hugh Clayton, the new saviour. Hasn't this guy ever heard of... "Bob"?

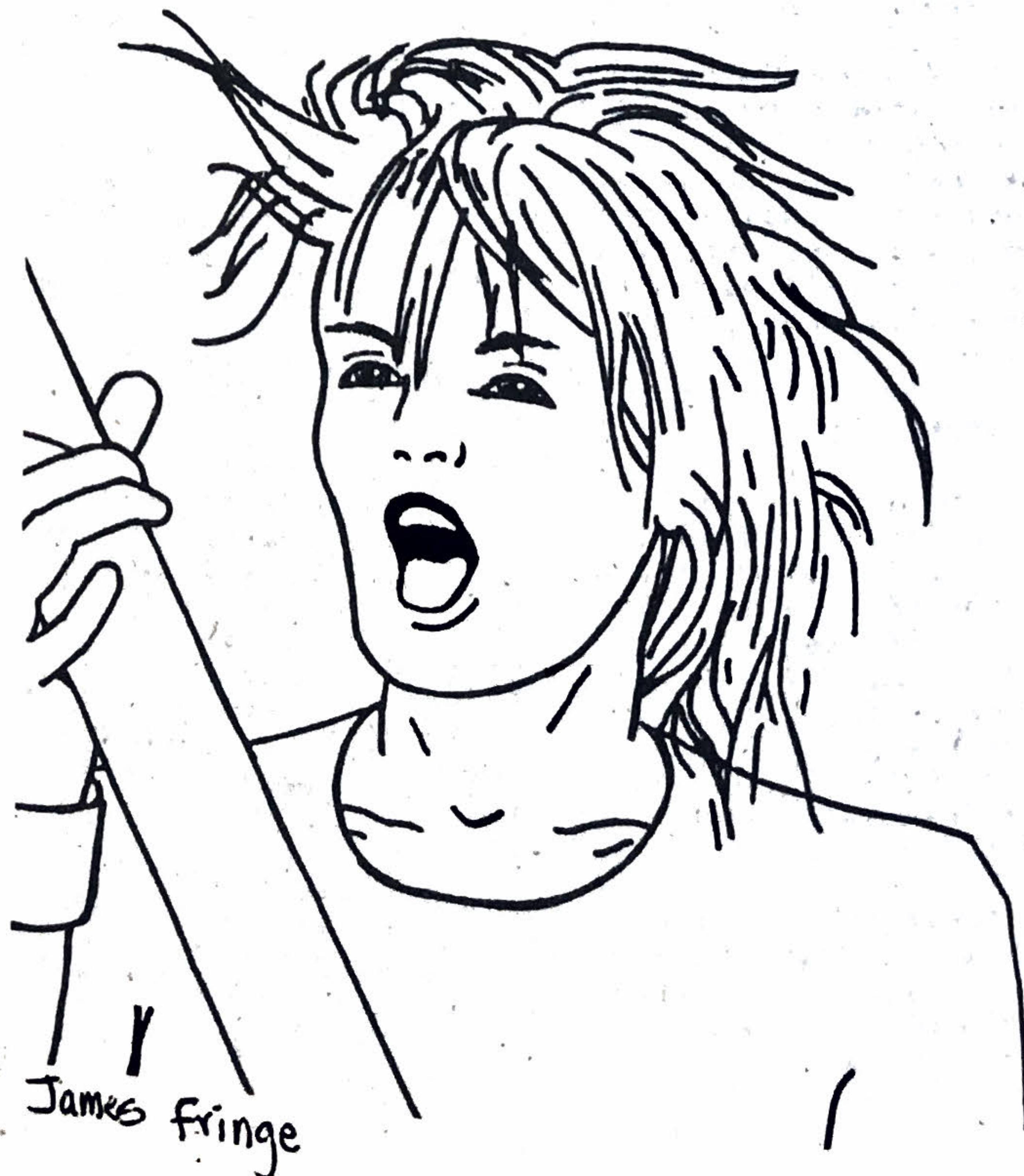
THE RUBBER FANZINE Vol. 2 #1 (\$1 & 39¢ postage from Rudi Rubberoid, PO Box 2432, Bellingham, WA 98227-2432): Stamps, you fool, rubber STAMPS. All right, now that the inevitable misunderstanding is cleared up I can go on to endorse this collection of art from around the world. Nothing of earthshaking importance here, just a lot of fun (and in this issue, a surprise rubber stamp for the reader to employ on one of the works). Rudi is also starting

to print letters from his following, and a strange bunch they are indeed. But then, have you looked at the letters in FF lately? Contributions are solicited, 4" x 6", black ink, white paper, originals.

RUNE #75 (The Usual from Minn-STF, PO Box 8297, Lake Street Stn., Minneapolis, MN 55408): The clubzine of the Minnesota Science Fiction Society. I can remember eons ago when I first got involved with sfandom and RUNE was a huge and beautiful thing. It's had troubles the last couple of years, but now appears to be pulling through, and this issue is a rather small but beautiful thing. Luke McGuff (old friend of FF) reviews fanzines, Geri Sullivan writes a fine piece of fluff on her visit to Corflu, and the Hennepin County District Court provides the resolution of a lawsuit involving various Minn-STF members. Also contains a large dose of boziness, of the sort one might find under a rock or in a Firesign album.

THE RUNESTONE #58 (\$9/yr from AFA, PO Box 1754, Breckenridge, TX 76024): A pagan zine from the Asatru Free Assembly, an Odinist group. They've just gone bimonthly, which indicates some success on their part. Filled with rituals, ideas on living Asatru, stories and myths, RUNESTONE seeks to support the new discoverers of an old religion. They're doing something right, as they are gradually accumulating money for a retreat and plan to start a companion, more intellectualized, journal soon.

RURAL NETWORK ADVOCATE #37 (\$8/yr from Rt. 2, Box 150B, Gays Mills, WI 54631): Rural Network is an organization "for single people who are country-oriented and who value a healthy environment." The RNA reads as a cross between a dating club and an apa; people write, sometimes about what they're up to, sometimes about what they'd like to be up to with other people, sometimes just about living rurally. For an additional fee, you can join the group, and get a set of personality profiles of selected other members with whom, presumably, you would get along. This is not some fly-by-night scheme but a bunch of people who've been supporting each other for more than six years now.



SACRED COW SIG (\$6/yr from Asa Sparks, 604 Pumpkin Dr. SW, Decatur, AL 35603): A publication of one of Mensa's Special Interest Groups. This one is "devoted to the ongoing debate of undebateable issues". Example issues include the truth of religion, the rights of smokers to smoke, race and IQ, the Holocaust, and so on. Asa edits out personal attacks in an attempt to keep the standards of debate high. However, it seems that this apa-like gathering is still short of critical mass; the debates die out before they've gone too far. Or perhaps these topics really are too undebateable for Mensans (and interested others) to discuss.

SCARY COMIX #1, #2 (25¢ each from R.K. Sloane, 500 Montclair SE, Albuquerque, NM 87108): A pair of rather gruesome minicomics. R.K. has a style well suited to disturbing people, consisting of pen and ink drawings overflowing with surrealistic gory details. There are themes that run all through this work -- blood, guts, gore, brains, bats, knives, eyeballs, scars... -- as well as a few celebrity drawings, featuring Ed Gein and Dorothy Stratton (in "Scar-80"). Definitely not for the faint of heart. Rather, this is pitched towards the audience that finds Ed Gein funny and graverobbing commonplace. #1 also includes one page that was drawn 15 years ago, giving an interesting glimpse at the evolution of an artist's style.

SCAVENGER'S NEWSLETTER #35 (70¢ from Janet Fox, 519 Ellinwood, Osage City, KS 66523): This one is aimed at the writer or artist of fantasy, horror or SF who would like to get some stuff published and doesn't mind starting with the little magazines. In addition to columns telling who's buying and who isn't (although "buying" is in some cases a misnomer, others pay up to 5¢ a word or so), Janet prints short articles giving advice to the budding writer. Small press publications that fit in with the overall theme are also reviewed. Janet is also the publisher of the wonderful **FROGS CROAK AT MIDNIGHT** anthology (see BOOKS below).

SCIENCE FRONTIERS #45 (\$5/6 issues from the Sourcebook Project, PO Box 107, Glen Arm, MD 21057): The real thrust of the Sourcebook Project is the publication of books on oddball phenomena, but they haven't sent us any of those to review. SF is their bimonthly collection of all sorts of Fortean and other anomalies from the various annals of science. Trees in Antarctica, eels with knots in their tails, ozone holes and lots more -- all of these come from reputable journals, not from nut cases getting their information from radio waves from the planet Saturn. The book selection looks interesting and reasonably priced, and no doubt they'll send you a copy with your order for the magazine.

SCORE 8 (\$15/yr from Crag Hill, 491 Mandana #3, Oakland, CA 94610): This production skates towards the edge of being poetry, but there's also much art and confusion and so it remains in the main body of reviews. #8 is put together Ace double style, with half of the mag devoted to the found poetry of Bern Porter and the other to the found art of Jurgen Olbrich. Crag almost makes these two movements comprehensible even to the likes of me. A subscription to SCORE also includes a barrage of small chapbooks, postcards, handbills, reviews and other madness. A busy and lively production (as opposed to review) of the arts.

SCRAP #2 (99¢ from Plutonium Press, 3645 N. Marshall Way #3, Scottsdale, AZ 85251): A mail art network featuring maddened collages put together by people who've been sucking on too many Gila Monster droppings. There certainly isn't any other way to account for the onslaught of nasty cracks at our

American System of Life displayed here. From the Amazing Ron Raygun to the Tom Cruise Missile to blowing up cactuses with Star Wars, new and exciting collages await you on every page. Sure, everyone bitches, but at least these folks are doing something about it -- they're having fun. Sort of like fiddling while Rome burns.

SCREAM III (\$1 from Craig Dalrymple, 909 Park Ave., Columbia, MO 65201): I've never been to Columbia, but judging from the magazines that come out of it, it must be one strange place. SCREAM is another of the low-budget literary zines that have popped up in recent years to challenge the alternative press establishment by printing stuff that doesn't necessarily fit in with the preconceptions of the literary establishment. It's a collection of poetry and prose and drawings and opinion, seasoned with a long band interview with Three Legged Dog. Some fun stuff here, but most of it is pretty dark & despairing.

SECRETARY UNDERGROUND #24 (SASE (?) from 12028 Venice Blvd., #4263, Mar Vista, CA 90066-3810): A small newsletter from a group of secretaries that are trying to look at their jobs in a somewhat rational light. They don't seem to exactly hate the career, but they see the drawbacks as well as the plusses. This issue includes a rant about co-workers that one can do without and a beginning guideline to careers in the legal secretary field.

SELECTED OOZE #2 (\$2 from Artists & Writers Underground, c/o Sarris Bookmarketing, 125 E. 23rd St. #300, New York, NY 10010): "Devoted to PUNKTURE, the fusion of punkist attitudes and experimental forms of literary expression." I don't know if they think they've invented something new or are just carrying on the beatnik tradition, but some of this seems designed to shock, or perhaps to "make you think" would be the nicer way to put it. Only two issues old, SO is already embroiled in arguments about publishing drawings of naked women (no naked men in this issue) and sexual acts. It will be interesting to see if they can come to grips with the sexual discrimination that seems to run rampant through both the punk scene and the stories and poetry published here.

SEX OVER FORTY Nov. 1984 (\$5 from PO Box 40428, San Antonio, TX 78229): A journal for those having problems keeping their sex life going as they age. It's rather small for the money (8 pp.), but apparently emanates from a physician's group. This issue has advice on preserving fragile erections, notes on the sexual side effects of cold medications, and discussions of some treatments for impotence. Please note: I don't usually review things this old without verifying the address first, but I rather doubt they'll trade with me, so I'll let any interested readers do the follow-up instead.

SHOOT #15 (50¢ (?) from Carol Schneck, PO Box 6101, East Lansing, MI 48823): Getting an issue of SHOOT in the mail is like mainlining a hit of American culture. In addition to the zine itself, Carol fills up the envelope with whatever flotsam of life happens to be in reach: advertising, stickers, photographs, pages from books, other zines, homework, whatever. The zine proper (if one cares to make that distinction) is a collaged thing, full of snippets of poetry, stories and drawings. This issue features a one-two punch of powerful writing, first a poem from Carol about a hunted man and then a story from party Animal W. Joe Hoppe (I wonder how he's survived all his experiences?).

SHORT FUSE #21 (50¢ & 56¢ postage from Holden, PO Box 90436, Santa Barbara, CA 93190-0436): A zine of literary and art contributions from a variety of people, somewhere between a mail-art network and an apa. Much of this is handwritten and hard to slog through, but there are a few gems. Eric Gilmartin contributes a nice short short story about fear, and Binky Planarian provides a few drawings that make fun of sacred cows.

SIC BISCUIT DISINTEGRAT #10 (£1/3 issues from Dave Rowley & Joy Hibbert, 11 Rutland St., Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire ST1 5JG, ENGLAND): A nifty sfzine, mimeographed on funny-sized paper and oozing Britishness at times. I get the impression that the main editorial criterion is what pleases Dave & Joy -- thus there are convention reports, accounts of the lives of fen, funny pictures, serious artwork, fiction, political theory and lots of letters. At least. Not pitched towards the non-SFan audience, but very nice for those of us used to the style.

THE SMALL PRESS BOOK REVIEW Nov/Dec 1986 (\$4 from Greenfield Press, PO Box 176, Southport, CT 06490): This one is devoted to sort of the cream of the small press, that is, the most respectable and book-like editions (no fanzines here, not even chapbooks). This really is about books struggling to be just like the big ones put out by real publishers. Typical topics are health, religion, and poetry. The contents are pretty much all book reviews, with a couple of articles on publishing thrown in.

THE SMALL PRESS REVIEW Sept. 1986 (\$16/yr from Dustbooks, PO Box 100, Paradise, CA 95969): This one is a bit more wide-ranging than the zine directly above, inasmuch as it gets down to chapbooks and stuff from really unknown publishers. There are also more reviews here (albeit shorter) and useful news and notes about the publishing industry: contests, calls for work, announcements of publication and so on. Merritt Clifton contributes a column for those asking for help; this time he talks about what to look for in a typewriter or computer.

SOCIAL ANARCHISM Vol. 6 #1 (\$3 from Atlantic Center for Research and Education, 2743 Maryland Ave., Baltimore, MD 21218): As an 80-page refereed digest, this one has pretenses of being a serious academic magazine. I enjoyed the reflections on the Haymarket '86 gathering; the forum on "Routes to Social Change" was more ambitious but, I think, flawed in focusing too much on "respectable" anarchy. There's also poetry and book reviews. The nice typesetting somehow homogenizes things, making this look more liberal than anarchist, but the contents to go up to the hard line from time to time.

SOLAR SPACE LETTER (\$10/yr from Rev. Robert Short, PO Box 622, Joshua Tree, CA 92252): This one has got to be seen to be believed. Imagine stepping back into the fifties and returning with a crudely mimeographed pamphlet raving about UFOs, "channeling", and such like, with a message for "the people of the earth planet" from the "President of the Solar Presidium". OK, if you can imagine that, you've got part of SSL. Of course the Prexy gives a

message of somewhat watered-down New Age Christianity to everyone, gratis. There are also bits and pieces on UFO sightings, offers of channelings to answer questions, and other fruitcake stuff. This is definitely too funny to be a put-on -- but I don't know for sure that the address is still good.

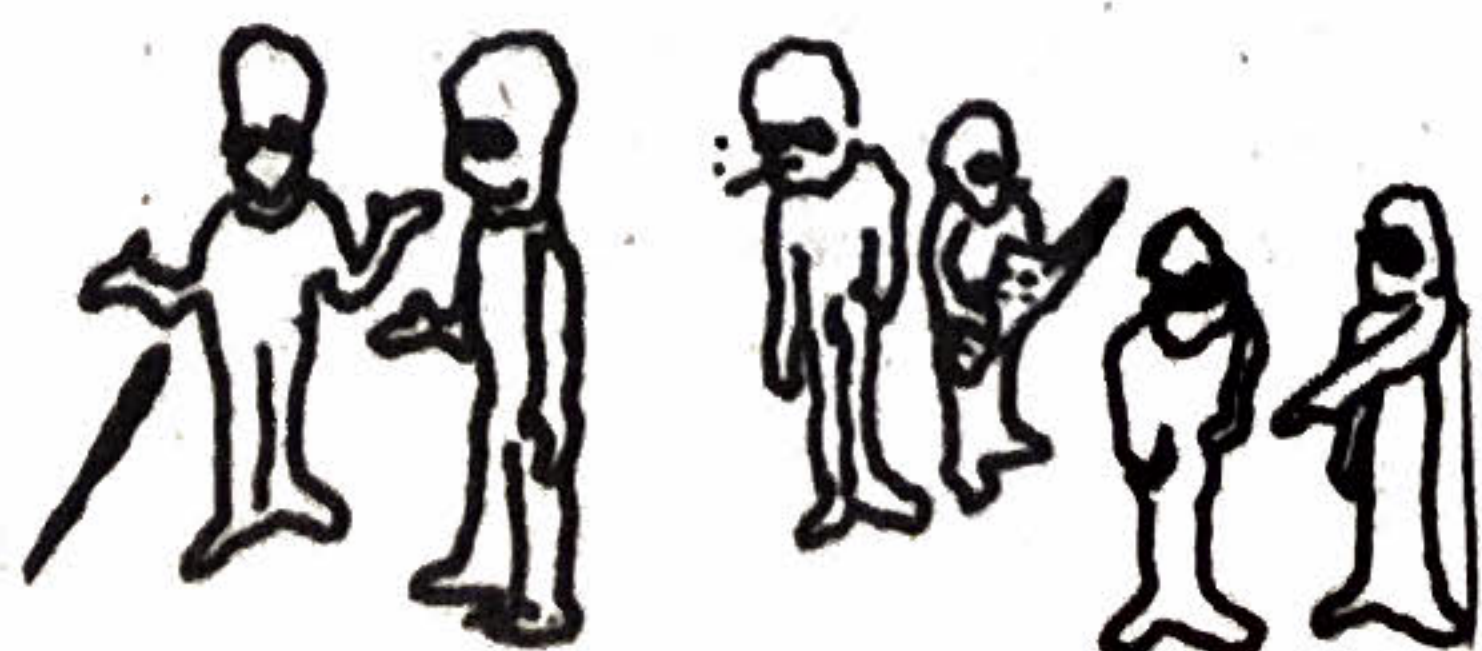
SOLIDARITY Vol. IV #4 (Contribution (\$5 suggested) from John Sinclair, 6325 Rolf Ave. S, Edina, MN 55435): The newsletter of CISLANM/FOR, which mouthful of alphabet soup stands for Committee in Solidarity with Latin American Nonviolent Movements, and the Task Force on Latin America, of the Fellowship of Reconciliation. They publish an edition in Spanish which goes to many Latin American activists. Articles cover human rights repressions and various tactics for fighting them nonviolently. On-the-spot coverage rather than academic writing is the tone here.

THE SORCERER'S SCROLLS #19 (\$1 from Tori Bergquist, PO Box 117, San Simon, AZ 85632): A RPG fanzine that features articles on quite a variety of things. This issue has 23 new groups for Steve Jackson's ILLUMINATI game; a couple of Tunnels & Trolls articles, including a solitary adventure (always a nice touch for those of us without time or companions for face-to-face play) and the rules for a T&T play by mail campaign that Tori is running. There's an exuberance here that I haven't seen in RPG stuff for a few years (but then, I haven't been looking very closely). Who knows, you might even run into me in that PBM.

SOUND CHOICE #6 (\$2.50 from PO Box 1251, Ojai, CA 93023): "Music the Mass Media CAN'T Let You Hear!", screams the front cover. While that may be an exaggeration, there's a lot of stuff in these 80 pages that they DON'T tell you about. The heart of SC is the hundreds of reviews -- if it's indie music, of whatever genre, they'll cover it. Articles seek to talk about the unusual and unknown: Music of the Bayaka Pygmies, Russian Jazz in the USA, Mozart and the Occult, Icelandic Poetry. Rest assured, though, that rock and punk do get reviewed, if not often written about. Too huge to read in one sitting or even ten, too eclectic for anyone to like it all, SC could be the WHOLE EARTH of the music world in the 90s.

SOUTHERN LIBERTARIAN MESSENGER Sept. 1986 (\$5/yr from Rt. 10 Box 52A, Florence, SC 29501): SLM is still coming out but the publishing schedule remains shaky, presumably due to editor John Harilee's continuing eye problems. Associate Editor Robert Brakeman is taking up some of the slack with his series of articles -- he writes pleasingly from a hard-core Libertarian point of view, which will no doubt distress many. The rest of the zine is, as always, made up of clippings from around the world that serve to make fun of the activities our society considers as just and proper.

THE SOUTH SOUND ALLIANCE Vol. 7 #1 (\$15/yr from PO Box 921, Olympia, WA 98507): This "Cascadia bioregional networking newsletter" starts the new year off with a batch of resolutions including "Don't let Reagan off the hook", "Refuse the nuclear waste dump at Hanford" and "Get the U.S. out of Central America". But there's a lot more than rhetoric here, like real news that I haven't seen elsewhere. A good example is the cover story on the town in Washington that got inundated with 40 tons of wood preservative from a nearby plant during the flood. Shortly thereafter the company records were arsonized, what a coincidence. Also lots of coverage of local actions of one sort or another and pages sponsored by regional groups.



THE SPACE WASTREL Vol. 2 #3 (The Usual from PO Box 545, South Perth, WA 6151, AUSTRALIA): A sfanzine edited by a triplet of fen (Mark Loney, Michelle Muljser, and Julian Warner), none of whom I know, but then I've been out of touch. Anyhow, the main subject of this issue seems to be alcohol (in various guises) and parties. I approve of all that, but actually I'm more interested in the letter column, where Bob Shaw is debating with one of the editors about whether Bob's works are sexist.

SPAMAN #4 (50¢ from Al Greenier, 65 Ingraham St., Bristol, CT 06010): This minicomic features a rather implausible superhero with all sorts of watery powers. In the current adventure, he ends up in the middle of a battle between an aging hippie and all of the yuppies in the world. The art is recognizably superheroish, and the satire is light but definitely present. Nifty "Just Say No" back cover -- that phrase could become the "I am not a crook" of the eighties.

SPECTRUM 16 (\$8 (SASE for info) from B. Corbett, 762 Avenue "N" SE, Winter Haven, FL 33880): "A Guide to the Independent Press and Informative Organizations", this one contains around a thousand addresses, mostly of vaguely political groups and with little overlap with what you'll find in FF. My only complaint is that the descriptions tend to be one sentence or less, but I can understand the sort of time pressure that drives one to do that. Besides magazines and organizations (most of them publish), SPECTRUM also lists book distributors and publishers. The best coverage is of things like Constitutionalists, Libertarians, Christian Conservative and Anti-Communists, but the editor's ideological bias (if any) is pretty well under wraps. At 72 pages, this one may be worth the price of a year's FF sub to some people.

S.P.E.W. #1 (\$1 (?) from War Resisters League, 339 Lafayette St., New York, NY 10012): The letters stand for a number of different things, and you'll have to buy one to find out what. This is an attempt by the well-established WRL to extend its thought into the youth culture of today. It features interviews with half a dozen high-school activists, a couple of articles on punk (with or without politics), an interview with Frank Zappa about the record-labelling nonsense, and some basic thoughts on how to resist wars. Resistance ranges from organizing and writing letters to withholding taxes from the government. A nice effort from a well-known but constantly struggling group.

SPEW AND REVIEW #22 (25¢ & SASE from Bob Konshak, 1490 E. Ryan Ave., Maplewood, MN 55109): This single-sheeter comes out monthly and makes fun of whatever the editor decides to hassle each time. Music comes in and out, with this issue looking forward to the days when our generation takes over radio programming and can flood the airwaves with disco rather than the recycled 60's stuff we're hearing now. Also thoughts on television and a surreal comic strip with no point.

SPORADIC DROOLINGS #6 (\$1.50 from Dave Burokas, PO Box 1092, Kearny, NJ 07032): Yow! SD keeps getting bigger (about 80 reduced-print pages) and more comprehensive with each issue. This review doesn't give me room to list all the bands interviewed, but take a gander at some of these staffers: Shane Williams, Jack Rabid, Carrie, Sarah Folkman, Bloody Mess, Larry Oberc... Somehow SD seems like the pfanzine analog of FF, trying to cover everything that Dave can fit in, and yet still making it out quarterly. Special note: Shane's attempt to piss off the world, interviews with GG Allin and Amaury Perez, and a zillion record reviews. Buy it!

SPORADICAL #2 (c/o Libertarian Book Club, 339 Lafayette St., New York, NY 10012): I don't want to say this too loudly, but this looks almost like another anarchist apa. (Keep it quiet or the wrong elements will infiltrate). A baker's dozen of New York anarchist and anti-authoritarian groups have gotten together to occasionally put out a collection of propaganda and literature. No price listed, but they're probably hungry for donations. Interesting stuff includes the events schedule for the Anarchist Switchboard and an Ed Anger column about them damned anarchists.

SRAF 98 (\$6/yr from PO Box 1751, San Francisco, CA 94101): Otherwise known as The Apa That Would Not Die. Put out by the remaining members of the Social Revolutionary Anarchist Federation, this one is still limping along, and in fact it is showing signs of new life. The current production group has managed to attract some new voices and has reversed its stand on censoring letters for content. Though the free association policy has caused some long-time members to drop out, on the whole I think the effects have been positive. Perhaps issue #100 will mark the start of a new era for this anarchist discussion forum.

STARHEAD COMIX

Michael Dowers puts out a batch of comics that I find quite entertaining, so I figured he could use some space to display them. Besides, this way I only have to type the address once: Starhead Comix, PO Box 30044, Seattle, WA 98103. Minicomics are 50¢ each or 3/\$1; postage 22¢ for each three minis. Other prices are given below, with postage at 39¢ for one, 54¢ for 2, and 63¢ for three or more.

ARMAGEDDONQUEST #3 (\$1.50): A continuation of the comic novel about Tazio, destined to grow up to be the beast of the Apocalypse. Ronald Russell Roach has created such a detailed story that by the end of this third 40-page volume we're only up to the age of 9. There are all sorts of cosmic themes and strange characters here, as well as an engaging almost primitivist style that melds well with the Italian peasant setting. You can get all 8 books of the series for \$9 postpaid.

EXQUISITE CORPSE COMIX #12 (mini): A joint production of John E and Bill Shvt, this one is an op art trip into a land of electric energy, rock music and strange flames. Bizarre.

MORTY THE DOG (\$1): "Selected, Collected Adventures" of the maddening canine hero drawn by Steve Willis. Steve's comics are a lot of fun, in large part because it's tough to find the plot beneath all the twists. Morty himself is not the nicest canine in the world, but then again, his world is not too nice to live in. Like a quick acid trip without the colors.

REACTION SHOTS (mini): Just what it says. Hilary Barta and Mitch O'Connell present a series of folks reacting to something offstage in a comically exaggerated way.

SEATTLE STAR #8 (\$1, or free with any order): A comics tabloid that supports itself with ads for small local businesses: newstands, restaurants, music stores, that sort of thing. This issue is particularly worth getting since all of the comics are from Steve Willis.

SPOOKS IN SPACE #1 (mini): This one combines a couple of favorite comic themes to produce strange drawings of ghosts, goblins and skulls running around the stars and planets in their rockets.

STARHEAD PRESENTS: MORTY THE DOG IN THE SHADOW OF THE RAINBOW (75¢): Morty returns in a new adventure wrapped in a four-color cover. This one

has a bit of a philosophical point about absolutes and freedom and stuff like that there. I think I'll show it to my Values & Policy professor.

STORM WARNING Vol. 1 #2 (\$8/yr from VVAW(AI), 4710 University Way NE #1612, Seattle, WA 98105): Although the initials stand for Vietnam Veterans Against the War (Anti-Imperialist), you used to have to look pretty hard to figure out that they are in tight with the RCP. Not so any more, as this issue endorses both REVOLUTIONARY WORKER and MAXIMUM ROCK AND ROLL. (The latter, by the way, after endorsing fanzines "xeroxed by one or two kids".) Other than that it calls for an end to US Imperialism, ceaseless vigilance, and a refusal to be Ramboized, all good ideas, but one wonders what their ultimate goal may be.

STREET #6 (\$10/yr from PO Box 278, Cambridge, MA 02238): STREET is finding its voice, and though that voice is a bit strident, it beats the aimless countercultural wandering of the last issue I saw. Helping to fund the newly formed Union of the Homeless, STREET is concentrating on the plight of the down and out in Boston. Articles discuss Medfield State Hospital (from the inside), homelessness, and so on. There are also satirical and upbeat features and a guide to services in the city, plus a great cover of Ronald "Just Say No" Reagan shooting up from a hypodermic labelled "Contra Aid". I think they need to develop a more incisive analysis, rather than just bleating "Homeless good, Developers bad", but this issue is a step in the right direction. This issue also contained OUT magazine as an insert [see review above].

STRIDER Nov. 1986 (\$12/yr from Lorne Strider, PO Box 554, Laytonville, CA 95454): A zine in the libertarian tradition that boldly announces it to the world when the emperor has no clothes. Lorne aims at whatever amuses him in the news; this time he dissects the ideology of a white supremacist group, makes fun of the Russian spy trawlers that pick up our Navy's garbage; and comments on the California Apple Maggot Eradication Program and its invasion of private property with poisons.

SUBURBAN VOICE #21 (\$1.50 from Al Quint, PO Box 1605, Lynn, MA 01903): SV is growing rapidly but keeping a strong hold on the Boston punk scene. The interviews this time are sort of religious in tone, with Cro-Mags talking about Krishna Consciousness and Bad Brains giving us the Rasta party line on the herb, but there are also Death of Samantha and a couple of other outfits talked to, as well as the expected live and recorded music reviews. Nice photos, too.

SWEET & SWISHY Vol. 2 #1 (\$1 from White Knight Productions, Dept. SS, PO Box 656, Wautoma, WI 54982-0656): This one advertises itself as "For the Connoisseur who wants more long haired little ladies". It consists mainly of pictures from the public domain (chiefly advertisements and newspaper articles) of young ladies with long hair. Aimed at those who like to look at girls down to well below the age of consent. No hint of anything more going on, unless you care to try psychoanalyzing the editor or something.

THE SWEET RIDE #3 (50¢ from TBS Publications, 2431 N. High St. #25, Columbus, OH 43202): TBS Pubs is Randy R.'s one-man show, and this is only one of the zines that he produces (see GW/BW). Although TSR is the title for his rock and roll mutterings, this issue is actually devoted almost entirely to movies (and subsidiary topics like TV, music video, and ads). Various folks from around the small press

world recommend and review their favorite movies (ranging from Koyaanisqatsi to Faster, Pussycat, Kill! Kill!). There's also an extended apology from Randy about how small the print was in the previous issue. I dunno if the case for a connection between movies and rock is as strong as Randy thinks, but I guess they both appeal to some of the same esthetic sense, so perhaps he's right.

TACTICS OF THE MLL Vol. III #2 (\$1 from PO Box 1748, Long Beach, CA 90801-1748): The Movement of the Libertarian Left is still hanging on and, in fact, reviving somewhat (see related review in the BOOKS section). This is the occasional single-sheeter newsletter of this anarchist group, containing tips on how to smash the state via the black market and thoughts on current world affairs. Their recruiting is now aiming for high schools and colleges, in hopes of turning the statist tide in the future.

TEEN PUNK #4 (50¢ from Jim Testa, 418 Gregory Ave., Weehawken, NJ 07087): Lightweight filler pzfanzine that Jim puts out in between issues of the more respectable JERSEY BEAT. This time around there are interviews with Agression, Cavemen, and The Attitude, plus a small batch of reviews. A zine you can finish in one sitting when you're tired of the huge newsprint monsters that dominate the scene these days.

TETRAGRAMMATON FRAGMENTOR!! #97 (75¢ from Steve Keeter, 1003 E. Amelia St., Orlando, FL 32803): This is the newsletter of the United Fanzine Organization (UFO). I have to stop here and clarify that "fanzine" in this case seems to refer to those coming from comics fans (although this is inference based on the reviews published here, and not on the zines themselves). Members agree to publicize and critique one another's zines, and try to promote higher standards in the fan press, although 9 people is an awful small number to attempt that. You can find out about joining the UFO by reading the Constitution published in each issue of TF, which also contains columns from UFO members and addresses for their various zines.

TEXAS LIBERTARIAN June 1986 (LP of Texas, 2001 Parker Ln. #134, Austin, TX 78741-3849): A standard-issue Libertarian Party newsletter. Contains news about who is running for what and how to support them, tax demonstration ideas, directory of the local lib bigwigs and so on. Much of this issue is filled with exhortations to get out and petition so that the Texas LP can get ballot status. Somehow it all seems quite futile to me. Why don't they spend some of their time and space on writing about freedom instead of politics?

THE TEXAS OASIS Oct. 1986 (Donation from Earth First! Austin, PO Box 7292, University Stn., Austin, TX 78713): This is (obviously) the bulletin of the local Earth First! "radical environmental movement". It's main purpose is to let people know what's going on, both locally (blockade of the Forest Service tree-crusher) and internationally (destruction of rain forests), as well as to keep tabs on political happenings of interest. Written in a somewhat messianic style, it doesn't always document claims (why should we believe a bottle bill will create jobs instead of destroy them?) in its rush to oppose Big Business and Evil Government. And personally speaking, I gravely distrust their tactics, but respect their strategic goals.

TFP NEWSLETTER Vol. IV #20 (On Request from PO Box 121, Pleasantville, NY 10570): TFP stands for Tradition, Family and Property, the three ideals as long as your Tradition didn't start with Marx,

your family consists of mother, father and two point two children, and the Property is owned by the rich people. They write in order to ridicule communists, feminists and others who would destroy these fine things, and to be sure of getting the message across, inspirational selections from the lives of the saints are included.

THANG! #2 (\$1.50 from Mike Robbins, 105 S. Mills, Madison, WI 53715): A pfanzone that talks to some unlikely groups: the Dead Milkmen, Go Dog Go, and Savage Republic pop into this one (the last is an article, not an interview). Also a pile of reviews, a "Speed Metal Poetry Corner", and pictures stolen from such unlikely and unpunk locations as Dr. Seuss books.

THE THIRD DEGREE Sept. 1986 (from MWA, 236 W. 27th St., New York, NY 10001): MWA is the Mystery Writers of America, and this is their zine to the membership. I don't know what you have to do to join, but I expect that it involves being a published author. Anyhow, most of this is taken up with news of who has recently published what. There are also a smattering of market news and some tips on suing your publisher in Small Claims Court.

THIRD RAIL #15 (50¢ or so from PO Box 472084, Tulsa, OK 74147): An 8-page pfanzone from the Sooner State that strives for quality rather than quantity. Dan appears to be happy with the size of the thing, and when he can get in an editorial, a couple of live reviews, selected record reviews, photos, comics and letters, why not? As one reader points out, if he only reviews six records you know he's actually listened to them, as opposed to some of these places that review everything that walks through the door. Nice emphasis on the local scene too.

THE THOUGHT Dec. 1986 (\$1 from The Philosophers Guild, PO Box 3092, Orange, CA 92665): I still find it strange that a small-press libertarian periodical is going to "spark the rebirth of academic philosophy" (funny, I didn't know it was dead). The quality here is improving, or perhaps becoming more philosophical, as after four pages of analysis on whether "libertarian" is a useful term we are left with the question of whether "libertarian" is a useful term. The other major article in this issue is an attempt to disprove the claims of some libertarians that abortion is OK. Editor Ron Tobin has attracted a stable of interesting writers by now, and may be moving into the prisoners' rights void left by the demise of LIBERTARIAN LOGOS.

THREADBARE #6 (\$1.50 from PO Box 20815, Seattle, WA 98102): A SubGenial zine that has a large chunk of stuff from the one and only Kerry Thornley. Also appearing are some strange ruminations from "Drool Slobber", a few bits about the Neo-American Church and the Boo Hoo Bible, and a healthy dose of Discordianism. In fact, there's so much of the last here that this is undoubtedly heretical by Muthah Church standards. But life would be dull if the SubGenii stuck faithfully to their dogma. Graphically, this somewhat resembles a low-price version of "The Book"; the mania is here, but not the incredible detailing.

T.H.R.U.S.H. NEWS #6/7 (\$2/4 issues from 151 1st Ave. #62, New York, NY 10003): A "Feminist Humor Magazine" from the gang down at Terrifying Hags Ruthlessly Uprooting Self Hatred. This is the "Special Double SEX Issue", and a fine time is had by all. Vaguely anarchist, these gals discuss everything and definitely funny, these gals discuss everything from the sweaty details to their (ex-)secret crushes, and provide the board and cards (no rules) for the Mystery Date game. I liked Laure's responses

to romantic cliches and Ann-Marie's article on being an East Village girlfriend. The snarking at current situations overlays a concern for better alternatives, but who cares about the serious point, this is funny stuff.

THUNDERBOW #106 (75¢ from Church of Seven Arrows, 4385 Hoyt St. #201, Wheatridge, CO 80033): As the name might tell you, this is a neo-pagan publication. It's aimed mainly at those who are not yet well versed in esoteric lore, and by drawing on numerous traditions, it provides almost a survey course in the field. Columns deal with such diverse topics as astrology, runecasting, elemental magic, the I Ching, and Chinese medicine. They also provide a calendar of pagan meetings and courses around the country, and as their own particular orientation is towards a nature religion, pay particular attention to earthquakes and other rumblings from below us.

TOILET DEVIL #1 (50¢ & 22¢ postage from Mark Frauenfelder, 3480 Granada Ave. #297, Santa Clara, CA 95051): Mark has put together a little comic book with a couple of lighthearted looks at deep philosophical problems. One strip is a somewhat paradoxical adventure story; the other is an attempt to defuse Newcomb's Paradox. He's also looking for SubGenial software for either the Apple IIe or the IBM PC; perhaps a diskette zine is in the works for the future.

TOPICAL TIME Vol. 37 #6 (\$2 from ATA, PO Box 630, Johnstown, PA 15907): The official journal of the American Topical Association -- topical postage stamps, that is. A very well-produced digest that has three basic types of info for stamp collectors who specialize in a particular subject. First, there are feature articles like "Stamps on Stamps" and "Thanksgiving Day". Second, there are vast lists of new issues relating to everything from cats to maps to computers to soccer to Esperanto, for those who are trying to keep their collections complete. Third, there are ads from stamp dealers and those selling the apparatus of collecting. Well done and no doubt indispensable for its readers.

TRUE VINE PRESS #27 (Free from Toledo Home Fellowship, PO Box 6461, Toledo, OH 43612): A Christian outreach tabloid that adopts some rather unique ways of getting their message across. This issue, they put forth an argument for dancing for the glory of the Lord, explain the spiritual struggle on earth by reference to a game of chess, and present several points in new wavish comics. I guess they're after the youth market.

TWIN CITIES GAZE #19 (\$12/12 copies from 2200 Fourth Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55404): A biweekly newsletter for the Twin Cities gay & lesbian community, the GAZE is mainly filled with local news. However, it does do some "lifestyle" sorts of things that are of wider interest. For example, this issue has the story of Willie, who's having his body covered with tattoos, along with a dozen pictures of the results. Other features range from serious stuff about AZT and AIDS to frivolous pictures from last year's big Drag Ball.

TWISTED IMBALANCE (\$1 (?) from Art Decco, PO Box 12504, Raleigh, NC 27605): A countercultural underground tabloid that doesn't stoop to explaining itself. Opening an issue of TI is like stepping into a whirlwind of disconnect(ed)/(ing) images: teenaged girls leaping off balconies at their favorite rock groups, Ron Reagan shooting Sandanistas, evolving punks and anarchists, the elephant and the swastika on the flag together. My copy was stuffed full of stickers and stuff -- I'm surprised they didn't all fall out in the mail. Perhaps the postman saw the "COKE=APARTHEID=GENOCIDE" bumper sticker and stuffed

all back inside.

TYPHUS NEWS Vol. 1 #2 (50¢ & SASE from J. Coxe, 1150 Grand Ave. #A, San Diego, CA 92109): "All the news that's fit to bend, fold and mutilate". Now I know anyone could come up with funny stuff and send it out to an unsuspecting world, but give this guy credit, he's broken the story on "Poindexter-North in '88?" about the front-runners for the Republican nomination. Also features Charlie Brown scoring smack for Linus, "Amy Carter is God", and an interview with the Rev. Jerry Farewell, complete with translations from Baptist into English. Thoroughly irreverent and funny as hell.

UNCLE FESTER #11 (\$2 from Jake Wisely, 2235 France Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55416): The heart of this pfnzine is the interviews (Husker Du, Meat Puppets, Anton Fier, Raunch Hands) but it's the surrounding touches that make it distinctive and set it above the pack. There are a good selection of photos including a centerfold poster of Soul Asylum, a Powermad sticker, and heavy cover stock that combine to make it visually attractive. Also, Jake has included features on local bands who haven't put out any vinyl yet -- something more zines should do for their local area.

THE UNDERGROUND GRAMMARIAN Vol. 10 #8 (\$15/yr from PO Box 203, Glassboro, NJ 08028): This comes from one R. Mitchell, who appears to be a disgruntled teacher, and the reason for his disgruntlement is the invasion of our schools by educationists. He employs a rapier wit to make fun of this horde that he is relatively powerless to stop. One of the articles this time sums up his philosophy: "It begins to seem that making sense is a skill not unlike the playing of the violin. It can, of course, be done, but no one simply falls into the habit of playing the violin." This is conservatism at its best.

THE UNICORN Yule 1986 (\$1 from The Rowan Tree, PO Box 8814, Minneapolis, MN 55408): A neopagan zine that's been publishing for about ten years now, THE UNICORN isn't large but they have fun. With a substantial amount of the space devoted to networking of one sort or another, it's good that the editor devotes much of the rest to poetry and (sometimes sexually explicit) artwork. The Rowan Tree also sells herbs, conducts courses, and holds healing rituals, with notices being posted in these pages.

UNZINE FUNZINE (232 E. 16th, Columbus, OH 43201): Looks like this one is free, but I'm sure stamps would be appreciated. From the front cover ("Steal This Zine") to the back (a bag of mustard glued on, "Free Condiment With Every Issue"), this zine shows a delightfully innovative spirit and a good deal of snideness. (Rule #6 from their list: "Honesty's a pretty cool idea, if you can hack people hating you!"). Although influenced in style and form by the more frenzied pfnzines, the contents are another sort of thing entirely: "Masturbation: the Last American Taboo", "Post-Feminist Troubleshooting Guide for the Modern Hetero Male" and "Teen Days" were three of the more enjoyable features. Made up of blitzkrieg attacks on your psyche rather than extended essays, this one is short but well-crafted.

UP FROM THE ASHES Fall/Winter 1986 (\$7.50/4 issues from Emma Goldman Resource Group, PO Box 5811, Stn. A, Toronto, ONT M5W 1P2, CANADA): Loosely affiliated with the tabloid KICK IT OVER, UFTA is more concerned with post-anarchist revolutionary schemes than with the historical roots of anarchy. In particular the editors are trying to extract the vital core from the Green movement and

yet to make it something more than liberal politics with a Green mask. UFTA is composed of both articles of interest from other Green and leftist periodicals and original writings. A good networking source for bioregional and Green concerns.

THE UPRIGHT OSTRICH Vol. VI #1 (\$3 from PO Box 11691, Milwaukee, WI 53211): UO used to be devoted largely to tax resistance, but now it seems to have downplayed this in favor of other, more sinister, Constitutionalist concerns. The basic thesis runs something like this: the One World Government is taking over the US through financial manipulations which will be based on energy shortages, and will use this control combined with the power of the press and a new slave labor prison system to suppress American citizens. Hence they do a lot to publicize new tachyon or magnetic or Tesla theories that promise free energy for the masses, and also run articles on the hijinks of the big boys. Interesting but, I fear, 99% nonsense.

USA CONFIDENTIAL (\$42/yr from Alliance News Service, PO Box 9009, Denver, CO 80209): I'm none too sure about this one. Billing itself as "the last bastion of free press in our controlled world", this "courtesy copy" nonetheless contains only three articles. The first purports to be about new secret military vehicles that move via "electron-creep" and are made out of plastic, and is pure crap. Then comes a confident prediction that the bust is coming in our economy and the Yuppies will be in the soup. Finally, "Judeo-Christian" is attacked as being a deceiving term. If anyone knows what this guy is about, clue me in.

A VERY SMALL MAGAZINE 7 (75¢ from Beth Blevins, PO Box 751, Chapel Hill, NC 27514): AVSM is growing: this issue is up to 2 editors, 4 contributors and 28 pages. Things are still not Utterly Serious, though, in this special mythology issue. There are musings about modern myths, an invitation to readers to update some of the old ones, and letters from the Gods, as well as more usual features like fascion news and notes on the uses of poetry. A wonderful snapshot of a color notecard adorns the table of contents. Get this issue and prepare to join the Poet's Party and set our nation straight.

VIAZTLAN June/July 1986 (\$2.50 from 122 N. Cherry St., San Antonio, TX 78202): An "International Chicano Journal of Arts and Letters", this one is about the same size as an issue of FF. It is in fact both international and bilingual, featuring editors in France, Nicaragua and Germany as well as the states and stories and poems in both English and Spanish (or occasionally a mix of the two). There's also an interview (of poet Wendy Barker), art, photos, poetry, essays, book reviews and a bit of news crammed between the covers. The editor is involved in a debate with some readers over whether to go more international or stay local, arguing that a blind dedication to publishing only local work is just as discriminatory as refusing to publish it at all.

VICTORY MUSIC REVIEW Vol. 11 #12 (\$15/yr from PO Box 7515, Bonney Lake, WA 98390): This music zine fills neatly a wide void that most others don't touch: the stuff you can listen to without a 575 watt amplifier, from polkas to women's music. There's a lot of folk and blues and children's and acoustic and so on in the Pacific Northwest, so they stick to fairly local coverage, although recorded music is also reviewed. But for those in the area this is a goldmine, as they have a huge calender of events every issue. There are regular columns on all sorts of music (jazz, dance, and so on) and to top

it all off, your subscription gets you discounts at events the Victory Music folks put on.

VIDEO DRIVE-IN! #11 (\$3.50/10 issues from PO Box 32313, Columbus, OH 43232): It's getting to the point where it's cheaper to make a movie than it is to buy a house in many parts of the country. Combined with home videos, the result is an avalanche of crummy exploitation flicks. Thank god people like Herb Schrader keep track of them, so that I don't have to add such a column to FF. Anyhow, this one starts with a run-down on films that take a traditionally pure hero(ine) and put them into the character of a sex-crazed twit: THE EROTIC ADVENTURES OF PINOCCHIO, GOLDBLOCKS AND THE THREE BARES, SEVEN INTO SNOWY. Then there's a quick look at blaxploitation and a run-down on current releases. And for only a dollar a day you can see this stuff in most major cities. Amazing.

VISUAL VACATIONS (\$7.50/set from Paul McGehee, PO Box 7384, Salem, OR 97303): Not a fanzine but rather a set of postcards. Well, where else am I supposed to review them? A set of 14 garishly colorful cards for the Grand Tour of the Solar System -- one per planet, plus the sun, moon, asteroids, Halley's comet and an overview. Beautiful colors, hilarious pictures and copy on the back. If you want to see a smaller sample, send 50¢ for a copy of the "Greetings from Nowhere in Particular" card, and then join me in trying to persuade Paul to do some art for FF. Definitely recommended.

THE VOLUNTARYIST #23 (\$15/yr from PO Box 1275, Grambling, SC 29348): I do believe that this libertarian zine is experiencing a rebirth of sorts. At least this is the best issue that I have seen in some time. The voluntaryists hold to an almost anarchist free-market view of the world, and seek to demonstrate its correctness through a combination of historical work and exhortation. This issue contains an article by Carl Watner on private coinage of gold (yes, it was practiced extensively in this country), Lorne Strider on peace, and a wonderful column from the ever-iconoclastic Charles Curley on whatever crosses his devious little mind.

THE VORPAL BLADE #29 (\$3/yr from Janice Lee, 508 Oakridge St., Greenwich, CT 06830): The quarterly (or sometimes slower) digest of Mensa's TV Impact Special Interest Group. This issue is devoted to the relationship between television and violence, with a variety of clippings that argue for and against the proposition that TV violence is bad for either individuals or society or both. There's not much personal touch here, but rather a wide range of opinions that let the reader try to make up her own mind.

WDC PERIOD #15 (\$1 from Chow Chow Productions, PO Box 43311, Washington, DC 20010): A pfanzine that's an interesting mix of styles: handwritten, typed, computer printed and typeset all meet here, sometimes on the same page. The contents reflect this same diversity, with interview followed by zine review followed by comix followed by who knows what. The best thing here is Gordon's account of this brief career as a concert booking agent and promoter for some hall in DC, even if I did have to hunt a bit for the tail end of the story (I should talk, with the pagination problems FF has had?)

WE THE PEOPLE #20 (\$3 to join from Michael Wolff, PO Box 52113, Houston, TX 77052): WTP is an apa "devoted to comment on current social/political events and personal opinions and commentary on events of the day". The major chunk of the apa is 79 pages of xeroxed stuff from major publications; after that come half a dozen fairly interesting zines. The overall climate seems vaguely liberal.

but not homogeneous. Current topics include the space program, nuclear war, and apartheid.

WHAT SIX (\$6/yr from PO Box 338, Stn. J, Toronto, ONT M4J 4Y8, CANADA): An "open forum for...poetry, fiction, drama, criticism, and visuals", this tabloid is aiming at Respectability in the Literary World, I suspect. The major pieces in this issue are part of a serialized novel, a play about child abuse by David Demchuk, and an interview with writer Alice Munro. I'm sure all this interviewing and critiquing is good (there's even a critique of three books of criticism), but I found most of it either pretentious or boring. In fact, the only part I liked was the suggestions about how to figure out which poetry readings to avoid (for instance, those named after the organizers). Skip it.

THE WHEATSVILLE BREEZE Oct. 1986 (3101 Guadalupe, Austin, TX 78705): This is a pretty specialized item: the newsletter of the Wheatsville Food Co-op. Judging by the production quality they must be a pretty successful co-op. There's stuff here about the original Rochdale Principles and about co-ops and politics, as well as what you might expect (diet & nutrition hints, and prices of stuff in the store, and exhortations to get involved). No hint of a price, but I'd say send a buck, since they're not in business to lose money.

WICK EN THYME #1 (\$6/yr from PO Box 38264, Baltimore, MD 21231): A new entry into the pagan newsletter business, and frankly I don't think too much of it. I am almost prevented from reading the contents by the steadfast refusal to use standard grammar: sentences like "Tis the Wick of the candle that be its soul" are intermixed with dozens of sentence fragments. The overall effect is like being dragged over a washboard. As far as I can tell, the writers believe themselves to be in some sort of Gypsy Wiccan tradition, although there is so little here beyond platitudes that it's hard to tell what that might be.

WIG SALE #1 (50¢ (?) from Eric G., 1568 Summit, St. Paul, MN 55105): OK, the low point of this pfanzine first: the copying is miserable, the pages are laid out upside down, the margins run off the page. That said, I like this guy's style. Laid out in the best random style, most all of this is opinions about music. The neat thing is that Eric talks not only about the Minutemen and Ground Zero but also about Bob Dylan and Lynyrd Skynyrd...and he has opinions (other than "they suck") about the successful rock bands as well as the punks. Also covers the local unknowns, always a good sign.

WISCONSIN COMMONWEALTH Vol. 4 #5 (\$8/yr from LFP, PO Box 1222, Madison, WI 53701): The LFP is the Labor-Farm Party, a new attempt to build a broad-based coalition in Wisconsin (and perhaps later nationwide?). In addition to fairly traditional labor politics (solidarity with other unions, general strike as a tool) and farm-based activism, their platform also includes a goodly amount of Rainbow/Green politics. Looking at the candidate profiles in this issue I see students, draft resisters, musicians, feminists, labor activists and more -- this is quite a diverse bunch. This sort of resembles an LP newspaper in format, in that it concentrates on politics but sneaks in articles on issues.

THE WOLSKE'S BAY STAR #2A (\$1 from PO Box 64, Menomonie, WI 54751): "Published when you least expect it", this rural zine contains some things you might expect from a country paper: hunting and fishing news, sports predictions, milke cans. But there are also articles that give the lie to this

stereotype. This time around there's a long one from George Gerbner, discussing the fantasy world portrayed by television, and a baseball story that I, with my limited knowledge of the sport, don't understand. Also features local coffeeshop reviews.

WOMENS MEDIA ACTION #36 (30p. from W.M.A.G. c/o A Woman's Place, Hungerford House, Victoria Embankment, London WC2, ENGLAND): Clearly that price doesn't include postage and if you want to get anything back you'd better include some IRCs with your order. I have mixed feelings about this zine and the parent Womens Media Action Group. On the one hand they are trying to fight sexism (and other discriminatory practices) in the media through mainly non-violent, educational means. On the other, their definition of sexism extends to the use of the word 'girl' in any context and to the use of male pronouns for collectives, and they apparently endorse slogans such as "Porn is the theory, Rape is the practice". However, even though I don't think the writers and I would get along very well, it is clear that many of my readers will find this valuable and thoughtful, and I do endorse it.

WOODSWOMEN NEWS Vol. 5 #1 (\$15/yr from 2550 Pillsbury Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55404): This tabloid is by, for and about women roughing it in the great outdoors. The Woodswomen organization runs various canoe, hiking and other excursions for women, and also provides a forum for the exchange of news and views between various women explorers. The trips reported here run the gamut from Kilimanjaro to Tibet to the Arctic, as well as more mundane places. Well-written and feminist without being obnoxious. It doesn't say so anywhere, but I expect that they would prefer to be contacted by women only.

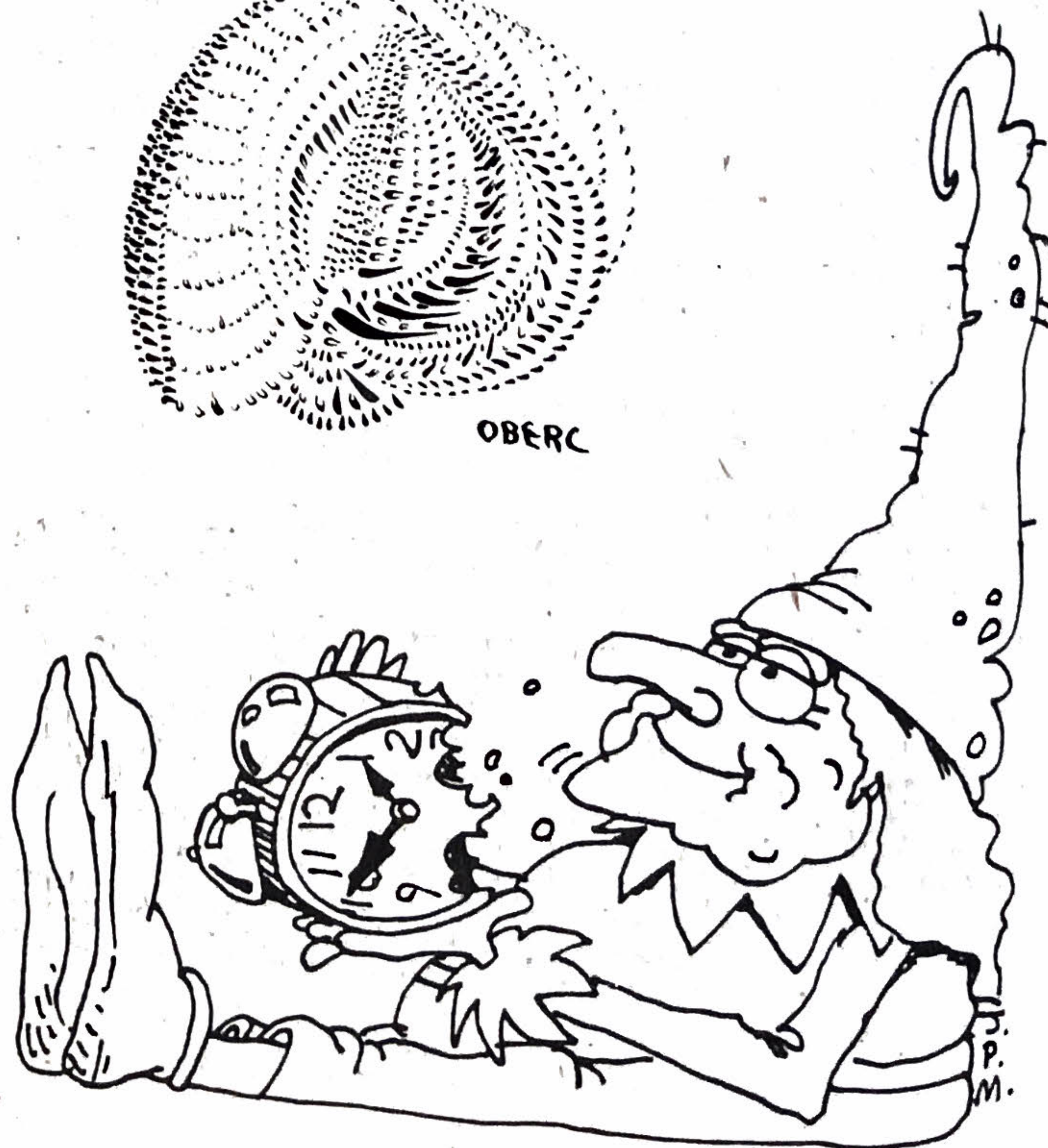
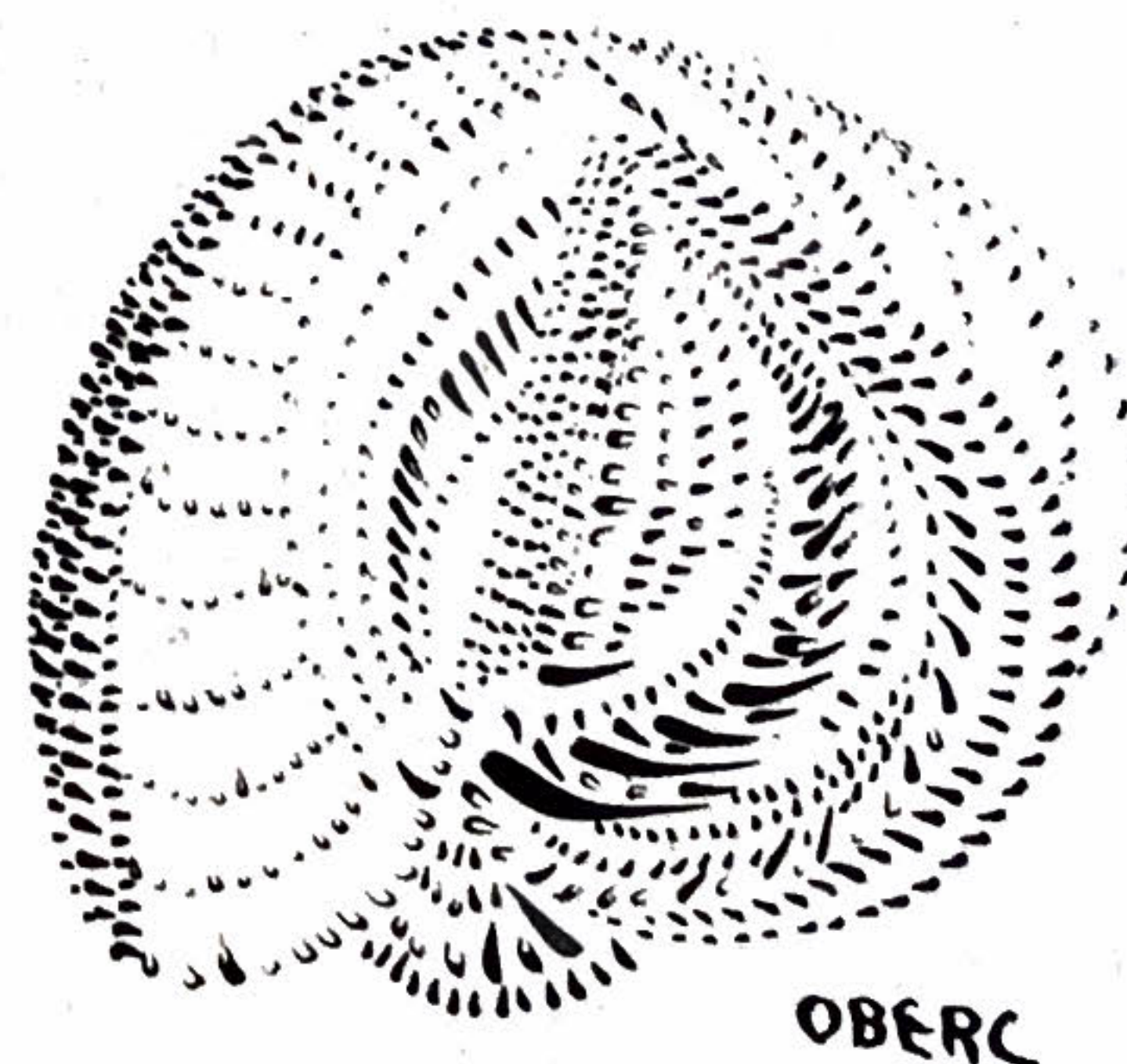
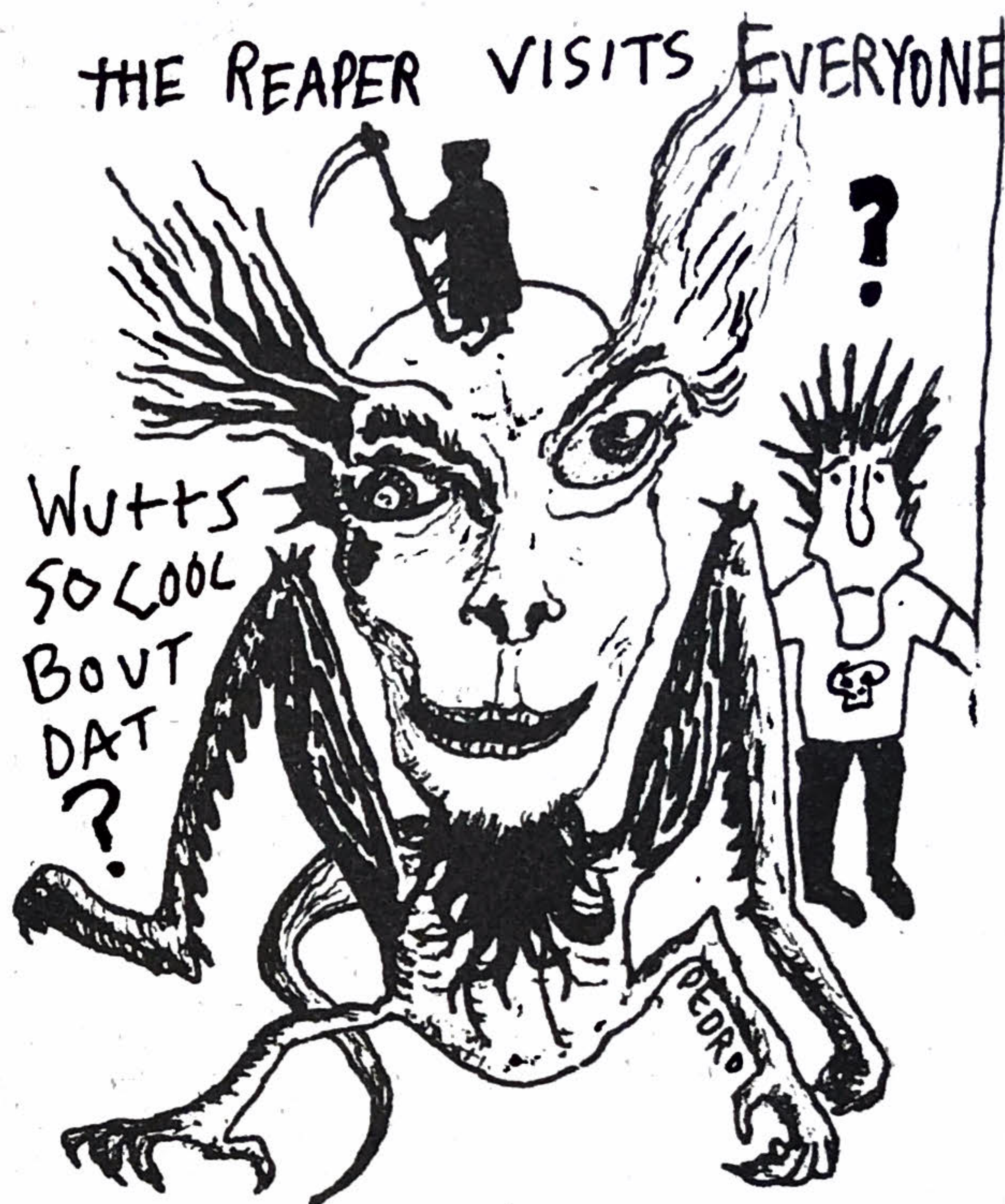
WORLD ECONOMIC REVIEW Sept. 1986 (\$5 from PO Box 507, Chalmette, LA 70044): These people are just a bit too loony to end up in the Hate Lit box. They do blame the Communists for everything, but they also blame the Trilateral Commission, the CFR, and the Illuminati. Included in this issue are a set of confusing revelations involving Kurt Waldheim, the SS, the Soviet Union, Israel and 400,000 Jews (apparently they're all plotting together) and stories on how the commies control the US State Department, the anti-apartheid forces here and abroad, Martin Luther King, and Corazon Aquino. Strictly for the birds.

WORLD INSIGHT Nov.-Dec. 1986 (\$10/yr (or more) from Freedom Fund, 4534 1/2 University Way NE #203, Seattle, WA 98105): Freedom Fund is a group working to help end human rights abuses around the world. Coverage in this issue focuses on Guatemala, Soviet Jewry, South Africa, and Big Mountain (right here in the US of A). In mid-March they are staging a "Freedom Express Caravan" through 6 Western states (down the coast and then over to Laredo) to raise money and consciousness for Guatemalans. Get in touch if you're interested in helping or participating.

YELLOW SILK #21 (\$4 from verygraphics, PO Box 6374, Albany, CA 94706): Editor Lily Pond continues to make YS an island of erotica in a sea of pornography. It's not sex but love and romance which are spread across every page; although the "action" does not take place away from the reader, it is not necessarily the centerpiece of these writings. This issue, Marilyn Hacker's powerful poetry and Paul Castagna's forceful crayon drawings stand out above the rest. Though not everyone likes YS, enough of us do that it's definitely worth your time and expense to have a look at an issue.

YOZINE #VIII (\$1 from John Dillon, 7505 Powhatan

St., New Carrollton, MD 20784): A zine for skaters, that is, punks who like to roll about on skateboards. Consists mainly of photos of people in unlikely and dangerous positions on their skateboards. Also includes some exhortations to get out there and do likewise. Not me, thanks; I'm a conscientious objector to ripping my own skin off.



CURMUDGEON CORNER

BY GARRY DE YOUNG



Since 1984 I have engaged in some sixty lawsuits all concerning violations of my Fourteenth Amendment rights under the United States Constitution, rights protecting persons, but which have been subverted by the courts, by our entire legal industry, to provide protection for corporations and the word corporation does not even appear anywhere in the Constitution. Constitutional guarantees to persons have been systematically abolished and this is exactly why such wheelers and dealers as Ivan Boesky, John De Lorean, Adnan Krosshagi, and the rest of the unsavory characters raking in the dough under the protection of our government have, and will continue to prevail.

Included, but not limited to, being named as Defendants in my lawsuits have been prominent lawyers, City Attorneys, the Iowa Press Association, the Sioux City Press Club, all of the television stations in Iowa, the League of Women Voters, Iowa Public Television, and the Roman Catholic Church. All of these defendants violated my Constitutional rights and all of them, in the cases so far settled, have been protected by the courts. This is exactly why we have the current collapse of our government in Washington.

The "investigators" on the House and Senate panels are not pursuing these criminals and trying to put them in jail where they belong, or in the case where there is evidence that they have aided an enemy country, an enemy country such as Iran, then they are guilty of treason and must be subjected to the death penalty which they so vigorously have promoted themselves.

Ronald Reagan and his coterie of traitors cannot be permitted to get off the hook. Every American must demand that these proponents of the lie detector test be administered that test and if found guilty, immediately removed from office.

Admiral Poindexter and Colonel North must be court martialled. After all, they fall under the provision of the Uniform Code of Military Justice

and therefore are under the jurisdiction of the military tribunals. In the military, traitors are shot!

Ronald Reagan has betrayed the American people and has also betrayed our allies. For this he must be convicted and sentenced to death by hanging, as a gesture of disgrace to the Office of the Presidency and for his crimes against humanity. Those crimes include the premeditated and deliberate first degree murder of Colonel Kadafi's infant and innocent daughter.

George Bush, as Vice-President and Donald Regan as Chief of Staff must be considered accomplices to these heinous acts and must be given the same sentence as the primary conspirator, Ronald Reagan.

The chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee Dave Durenberger, long known as a C.I.A. operative, must also be subjected to lie detector tests, especially in view of his attempt, early in this investigation, to have Ronald Reagan exonerated through prejudicial statements on his (Reagan's) behalf when all of the data had not been collected and presented to the American public.

The chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Mr. Purcell of Florida, should be impeached for his gag-rule manipulation of the investigating committee and permitting self-serving and prejudicial statements to be made by Representative Lantos of California and every other irresponsible Representative posturing Colonel North as a hero in the midst of the investigation!

These are the real scandals. These Senators and Representatives have received PAC money and there must now be an investigation to determine whether these Congressmen are serving the American public or whether they are serving the Trilateral Commission, the Federal Reserve System, and the Japanese corporate complex (which is now buying our "obsolete" steel plants in order to build their foreign cars in our country).

It is time for Americans to stop being cowardly and afraid to demand accountability from their public officials.

BerZeRkELy Comix by Ace Backwards ©1986





Of course, it should come as no great surprise to anyone by this time that I am not precisely the most with-it person in the entire world, a fact that should be made abundantly clear to anyone who still had any doubts left when I tell you that, not only have I never heard Bon Jovi sing -- a record, incidentally, that I intend to keep untarnished -- but for several months I have been laboring under the delusion that he was a chain of take-out French restaurants in the midwest. Add to this the inescapable fact that I own neither a jogging suit, a pasta maker, nor free drink tickets for the Mike Todd Room (I do own a coffee grinder, but this has less to do with any essential hipness on my part than with a totally unproven theory I have that the grinding of coffee beans is somehow therapeutic -- to me, if not to the beans), and it's fairly easy to see that I am not about to be invited to any of Michael Musto's birthday parties any time soon.

Normally, the knowledge of my own inadequacies in the field of Being Here Now bothers me not a whit. For one thing, most of the time I'm far too busy trying to cope with the simple vagaries of everyday life -- wondering, for instance, why on earth it is that the nearest local movie theatre has been showing LADY AND THE TRAMP for three solid weeks -- to give much thought to what the really Up To Date people are doing, and, for another, I just haven't got enough real interest in being my own best friend (after all, am I really going to have that much occasion to call myself up at midnight and cry on my own shoulder because of convoluted man troubles that I'm first going to have to explain to myself?) or dressing for success (especially since, in this neighborhood, "dressing for success" means that your Peter Pan collar matches your cardigan) to expend the sort of effort this kind of thing requires. Still, occasionally something comes along that reminds me with such force and horror of what you might call my backdatedness (you might also call it my social retardation, but never mind), that steps must be taken to remedy the situation.

Such a situation arose just the other day, when it came to my attention -- much against any conscious choice of my own, I might add -- that I was the only Witty, Acerbic, Sophisticated Commentator on the American Scene on the block who had not presented a collection of humorous awards to dubious events in the previous year. I mean to say, there was Geoffrey Stokes in the VILLAGE VOICE being all clever about the idiosyncracies of 1986's newsmakers, and the entire staff of T.V. GUIDE making pointed little observations about the state of the entertainment business in general, and even that same Michael Musto who thinks I'm not good enough to go to his birthday parties coyly handing out something he calls "The Felixs" to that variety of celebrity that mercifully confines itself to the boundaries of SoHo and Tribeca and, well, honestly, when a girl finds herself being one-upped by the likes of Michael Musto, it's high time for her to do something about it, don't you think?

And so, the time has come for me to throw in the towel of my unhipness, so to speak (metaphors are not my long suit, either), and do a bit of award-presenting of my own. Being, in case it's escaped your attention, a Visual Arts Critic (or as

close to one as you're due to get, anyhow), these awards are, naturally enough, devoted to outstanding achievements in the visual arts during the year 1986. Beyond that, I make absolutely no claim for them, except the fervent hope that circumstances will not force them to become an annual affair. Therefore:

THE DECIDEDLY NOT ANNUAL ANNI AWARDS FOR DISTINCTION IN THE VISUAL ARTS 1986

The Bad Seed Award For Unnerving Performances By A Child, Alive or Otherwise: To those anti-drug, anti-alcohol public service announcements in which the disembodied voice of a fetus pleads "Mommy, don't..." as its mother attempts to enjoy a little extracurricular recreation.

The National Ecumenical Council "We Are All Brothers Under the Rotoscoping" Award: To the McDonald's Corporation for putting Feivel, Steven Spielberg's Jewish mouse, on its promotional Christmas stockings.

The "Of Course It's My Original Nose" Award: To Steven Spielberg, for somehow neglecting to mention that Feivel Mousekewitz, a small creature whose family fled to America after their Russian village had been destroyed in a pogrom, in fact was Jewish, causing a certain amount of confusion among certain members of the viewing audience, some of whom came to the almost unavoidable conclusion that Feivel and his family must have been cursed with the most extreme bad breath to bring such an occurrence upon themselves.

The Ted Baxter Memorial Award for Creative Vulgarity in Broadcasting: To Ed Begley, Jr., who, after a recent airing of ST. ELSEWHERE, became possibly the first man in the history of the medium to have cut his toenails and had a bowel movement on network television.

The Howard Cosell Award for Premature Self-Flattery: To Linda Ellerbee's and Ray Gandolf's OUR WORLD, the only program currently in production with its own study guide.

The "I'd Like To Buy The World A Coke" Award: To Hands Across America, for being the ultimate in 1980's style altruism -- highly publicized, possessed of a catchy theme song, finally useless (it was estimated, by one account, that after costs for publicity, transportation, promotional tee-shirts, etc., the event raised approximately 8¢ for every homeless person in this country), and underwritten by a soft drink company.

The "The Gods Must Be Crazy" Award: To T.V. evangelist Pat Robertson's campaign for the Presidency of the United States.

The Donald Regan "Diamonds Are A Girl's Best Friend" Award: To the Statue of Liberty Celebration Committee, for throwing a three day party

celebrating immigration and artfully managing to forget that, along the borders of California and Texas, a new wave of would-be immigrants was being welcomed to the country by people with warrants and guns, and, in many states throughout the country, the original landlords of this little piece of real estate were living in worse conditions than those from which most of our ancestors came here to escape.

The Imelda Marcos "One Is Never Enough" Award: To the Statue of Liberty Celebration Committee, for managing to line up 200 Elvis impersonators to perform at the closing ceremonies, an act which was said to send several dozen newly sworn-in citizens back to the Old Country.

The "I'm Not a Maharincess, I'm a Henna Rinsess" Award: To Cyndi Lauper. Presented in appreciation by the makers of Lady Clairol.

The "Goat's Head Soup" Award For Riding on One's Own Coattails: To director John Hughes, for FERRIS BUELLER'S DAY OFF, a pleasant enough little B movie that would have lasted about two weeks in major markets before being relegated to drive-ins in the 'burbs, had it not been directed by John Hughes.

The "Have Your Girl Call My Girl" Award: To the vast hordes of celebrities (who shall remain nameless because they certainly needn't expect any free publicity from me) who were perfectly happy to turn out for the media-blitzed Live Aid and Hands Across America events, but who refused to participate in a less well publicized fundraiser for AIDS victims held in New York.

The "The Thing That Wouldn't Leave" Award, consisting of one dead horse and a whip to beat it with: To SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE which, despite declining popularity, declining entertainment value, and declining interest on the part of just about everybody, refuses to do the Right Thing and become SATURDAY NIGHT DEAD.

The "Attack of the Killer Tomatoes" Award: To actor Danny Aiello, for the foolowing remarks made on CBS NewsOvernight: "A guy who's had a couple of drinks, well, you can't tell, but a guy who's had a little marijuana, he looks at you weird, he acts weird, you just know he's gonna do something strange..."

The P.T. Barnum "There's One Born Every Minute" Award: Jointly, to the home video companies who announced plans to raise the price of their pre-recorded "big movies" from \$79.95 to \$99.95, and to those happy souls who will somehow still feel compelled to buy them.

The "There Is A Merciful God" Award: To Phoebe Cates, for not appearing in a movie during 1986.

The Alexander Haig "Don't Kid Yourself, Baby" Award: To the producers of OUT OF THE FEIRY FURNACE, a multi-part PBS documentary dedicated to the dual propositions that (a) there would be no civilization without and (b) nothing in the world was as interesting as, steel.

The "The Thing That Wouldn't Leave Award" II: To the producers of the FRIDAY THE THIRTEENTH movies, who announced plans to keep Jason coming back until #13.

The Ronald Reagan "Best Laid Plans" Award: To the program directors at CBS who moved one show in its successful Monday night lineup, DESIGNING WOMEN, to Thursday evenings opposite NIGHT COURT, and substituted a new program, THE CAVANAUGHS, for Monday. THE CAVANAUGHS proved so inferior that it effectively lowered the ratings of the entire

evening, while DESIGNING WOMEN died on the vine when pitted against the immensely popular NIGHT COURT, thus effectively ruining two ngihts' worth of ratings in one blow.

And, finally,

The coveted V.C. Andrews Award For Excellence in Fiction Writing: To the writing staff of DALLAS for service above and beyond the call of duty in the fields of imagination, quick thinking and the ability to extricate themselves from a tough situation by relying on one of the oldest, most tired gimmicks in the fiction writer's arsenal.

You see now, I think, why, at the conclusion of this, I intend to take out some sort of policy with Lloyds of London, insuring me against ever having to do this sort of thing again. I mean, surely if they can insure against damage, theft and natural disaster, they can insure against smarmy little trendsetter making nice girls from Pennsylvania miserable, which ought to come under all three headings, can't they? And something really does have to be done, before all these columnists take it into their heads to go doing something completely silly, like dressing up in flood pants or joining the Tipper Gore organization. I mean to say, there are limits to what a person can be forced to do in order to keep up with the Mustos, aren't there?

Aren't there?



Penned In

by Shane Williams

Let's start off with the three most worrisome intrusions on rock by "the law". Most everyone has heard about the Dead Kennedys, their label Alternative Tentacles and their distributor Green World getting slapped with a lawsuit for something like making obscene material available to minors. Many people in alternative music seem to be making light of the whole thing, such as John Crawford, whose Baboon Dooley made it seem like Jello, the DK's singer, was seeking a boost from the community for being a pornographer, and a couple of bands, The Necros and White Flag, have a new dual EP entitled JAIL JELLO. Now I doubt if too many people like those bands or the Baboon Dooley more than me, but in this forum I would like to say it sucks that my hometown, LA, slapped this suit on those people for bona fide art in a bona fide album with a fucking warning right on the cover. And it's not too farfetched to imagine record stores being raided in a hunt for objectionable material if the authorities do indeed succeed in jailing Jello.

Possibly even more depressing have been the visa restrictions of foreign groups on the basis of "no artistic content", and the obscure ambiguous laws now being used to discourage independent distributors from selling imported records. I'm not gonna waste any more space -- let's just say '85s PMRC hubbub was just a peak behind the curtain of what '86 had in store. I make no predictions for '87 -- I do admonish people to support stores that carry music and mags the government finds objectionable. Even if you prefer jazz to rock you can still try to shop at stores who carry the most free-speaking material, and when you go to a store for convenience items don't shop unless they do carry skin mags and/or music mags. If you think that writing to Congressmen or lobbying groups help, then by all means do stuff like that too.

So I was thinking -- boy am I ever going to sound lame having most of my column worrywart shit about persecution. Half of my correspondents have no sympathy with Jello and think it's all a tempest in a small Coke. So today I see an article in USA TODAY about the FCC wanting to crack down on independent broadcasting. And who are the two stations in question? Both of the ones I used to listen to when I was doing time in Lompoc. The University of California station where supposedly "explicit rock lyrics" are the problem, and KPFK where talk shows are the problem but which also airs late night music programming by the underground SPIN columnist Andrea Enthal, and used to have Meltzer's show when I was back in Lompoc. So just because I'm paranoid doesn't mean this censorship isn't hitting a little close to home. Will the Meatmen sympathize with Jello when they can't make college playlists anymore?

Now to comment on a couple of the letters Mike printed in #20. John Von Seggern thinks I'm biased towards punk and hardcore. Well I am proud to accept the label punk rocker, and I do like lots of hardcore. But I also like psychedelic, garage, industrial, blues, gloom, horror, progressive and some ethnic music like Celtic, Gamelan and East Indian. I haven't disowned what I liked in the sixties or seventies -- yet my faves are mainly

brand new stuff, a lot of which doesn't even fit neatly into the genres I enumerated. So when it comes to reviewing records I'm not all that bound by what is punk and what is not. When it comes to my column I do tend to write about people or issues that concern punk because most of the fanzines I read are roughly somewhere in the punk ballpark and since FF is a zine about zines a lot of zine editors, many of whom I introduced to FF, are my readers.

Now as for James Fringe chastising Mike because he seemed to be acting as if neatness counts in punk zines -- Well, yes, I love SICK TEEN, and it is a much loved zine, but if you'll notice FLIPSIDE has made its format neater, lots of the most read zines are neat, and plenty of reviewers are biased against sloppy layout. So you're wrong to say that SICK TEEN's layout is one that's idealized by editors far and wide. In fact, I don't remember your zine, THE FRINGE, being too messy or the print real small! Didn't particularly care for your innuendo that FF's music reviews seem to lack an understanding of the bands' intention -- would you care to be more specific? I always welcome "You don't know what the fuck you're talking about" letters. Send 'em to Mike so he can read 'em and forward 'em to me.

I love lambasting dudes on the punk scene (dudes includes chicks, punk includes whatever I listen to, so there) who think they're arbiters of cool, because I'm the only one who can rightfully claim that title. One of my favorite targets has set himself up again: Steve Albini, everyone's favorite jarhead, has let it be known that most, if not all, music prior to when he started listening in the '77 punk explosion or thereabouts, sucks. Not only couldn't the interviewer entice him to say Led Zeppelin really were pretty cool, but when asked about Mott the Hoople Steve declared they were really, really bad. Now Steve also laments that such past heroes of his as Lou Reed and Iggy Pop have gotten mediocre in their dotage. Well, possibly the same could be said of Ian Hunter, Mott's singer/writer -- but Mott, in their heyday, were pretty damned good. But it's in the realm of drugs and sex where Steve A. really shows he is a nerd, geek, and everything else applicable all rolled up into one -- and how does he do that? He admits that he can't handle sex on acid, that it makes him feel like an insect. Don't worry about it Steve, you are!

A new improved trend in fanzines is writing about stuff that never actually happened. Just plain exaggerating and myth-making is not that new in the annals of writing about rock, but things have gotten so bad (good?!) that I really don't know what to believe anymore. I guess I should have expected that all of KILLER (a zine out once in a blue moon from Thurston of Sonic Youth and available though Pete Davis at YOUR FLESH, PO Box 3107, Minneapolis, MN 55403 for \$3) was lies. I mean, excuse me for believing that maybe Madonna had done modeling and movies for R. Kern and that Steve Albini slugged Kim Gordon because Sonic Youth can't play worth shit. But man did I scratch my head upon hearing Coley rendered a deadpan pisstake on Chris Stigliano (Publisher of PHFUDDDD!, see zine reviews) by reviewing a non-existent Lazy Cowgirls record under Chris' name which not only fooled me but had Eddie Flowers getting in touch with Chris claiming that he had to have that record because he was the #1 Lazy Cowgirls fan in the world.

Bottom line: any time I read something that makes me laugh or that sounds too good to be true I wish I had a built-in bullshit detector. See the new FLESH AND BONES for plenty of this good clean fun too!

Lots of people send catalogs or promo material to FF that don't fall into our ordinary style of reviewing actual zines and actual recorded music, but what the hey, here's some of the info we've received:

Tim Gassen, who was involved with the compilation "Beasts From the East" and the band Reptile House, and who did cassette zines out of Columbus, Ohio prior to that, is now in Tucson, doing an all psych/garage rock show called RANDY LOVE'S FLOWER HOURS. He is interested in all submissions of that type of thing so write him at 2707 E. Edison St., Tucson, AZ 85716. He uses a broad interpretation of what fit in his format so you do the same.

Out of New Hampshire comes a metal band, Nightmare, whose promo comix are designed to offend everyone and thus delight me. They will be on tour soon supporting their debut LP in February '87 called "Mindless Mayhem". Contact 'em if you know about clubs they can play in your area or go see 'em when they come through if you like speed metal: Tim Koukos, 99 Sherwood Dr., Manchester, NH 03103. VISA, a non-profit libertarian label in France who sell punk cassettes for 9 bucks (including postage, Int'l Money Order only) carry a lot of bands that you won't find too many places, certainly not in stores stateside. Inquire from Thierry De Lavau c/o VISA, 17 Rue Raspail, 93100 Montreuil, FRANCE.

Swinging Axe Productions: Lots of industrial/experimental cassettes. PO Box 3741, Northridge, CA 91323. Label chief Randy Greif was recently reviewed in UNSOUND.

Pusmort Records: Thrash and punk ethos speed-metal at PO Box 701, San Francisco, CA 94101. List for 3 stamps.

KO City Studio: New electronic music, mainly by a group known as Data Bank A. One release sounds intriguing as it has covers of Joy Division's "Isolation" and Roxy Music's "Dream Home Heartache". Write PO Box 255, Dracut, MA 01826.

Deluxe: Punk stuff, records, T-shirts, skate equipment. PO Box 883311, San Francisco, CA 94188.

Gravelvoice Records: Punk and industrial with a great great slogan: "If the label doesn't say Gravelvoice then it's probably somebody else's record company". Write 'em at PO Box 2271, Bloomington, IN 47402.

Cause and Effect: One of the premiere industrial/experimental tape distributors. PO Box 30383, Indianapolis, IN 46230.

Toxic Shock: Punk stuff, been around a while, great cover art on the catalog -- but why do they owe my other zine SPORADIC DROOLINGS money? PO box 242, Pomona, CA 91769 at your own risk.

Which reminds me: SYSTEMATIC AND IMPORTANT, PAY UP TOO!

And labels and distributors: how about sending review material and not just catalogues? We review everything that we're sent.

FANZINE REVIEWS:

[Editorial Note: I only let Shane review things that I don't get. If you want to see his opinions on things like FLIPSIDE, FORCED EXPOSURE, JET LAG and dozens more, you should subscribe to SPORADIC DROOLINGS.]

* B-SIDE (\$8/4 issues from Simon Lornegan, PO Box 166, Broadway, NSW 2007, AUSTRALIA): Since I last reviewed this one I got the double issue and the Greatest Hits issue -- so, you got it, I think they're about 4 times as great as God. The emphasis is on non-hardcore type punk: garage, psychedelic, swamp, pop. These types of punk from down under are masterfully covered and for hardcore, well, look elsewhere because there's lots of that down under too. If bands like Scientists, Saints, Celibate

Rifles, Birthday Party, Mutants, Died Pretty mean nothing to you then, get a brain transplant.

* DISTORTED FANZINE (\$1 from Bones, PO Box 12768, El Cajon, CA 92022): Hardcore youth zine with plenty of enthusiasm and a fair amount of info. Mail interviews are a little brief but picture reproduction is surprisingly good in this xerox zine. As with many such zines the editor also has a compilation tape available, this one only 3 bucks so when you figure it's only \$4 for both zine and tape, well, you've gotta order it if you like hardcore.

* FLESH AND BONES (\$2 from Jeddo, 351 Beechwood Ave, Middlesex, NJ 08846): This one floored me. The last issue I saw was just a few pages and had a good attitude but there wasn't much in it. This one is like a slightly skinnier FLIPSIDE sizewise, with a glossy cover, and has the totally cool trash ethos with great "pinup" photos of Redd Kross, Necros, Frightwig, Honeymoon Killers, A.O.D. and more. Record and live reviews are written as entertainingly as anything in FORCED EXPOSURE and the rest of the space is taken up with graphics that evoke supermarket exploitation mags and are really cleverly laid out. One whole page of bubblegum reviews and a few of comix reviews with artist Kas in a featured interview. I sure hope this one keeps this format and comes out regularly because it rules.

* FOUR ALARM FIRESIGNAL aka FALAFAL (Stamps to Pen-Elayne, PO Box 1609, Madison Sq. Stn., New York, NY 10159): Firesign Theatre newsletter and the organ of the National Surrealist Party all rolled into one. Too many bozos on this bus, yo!

* PREFANZINE (Michael Grubb, 805 1/2 Onslow St., Durham, NC 27705): This is something you don't just subscribe to. It's an Amateur Press Association (apa) that you must contribute 45 copies of your submission to and pay for the postage of the collating editor to send you your completed copy with all the members' contributions. The most recent issue was 3 thick booklets full of philosophizing, commenting and reviewing -- plus issue of a catalog, a book review section, and Bob Black's latest product, CYNOPTICS. Self-dubbed as "the only libertarian sci-fi apa in the entire friggin' universe!" it can be your entry into a miasma of fun and the abyss of no more free time ever. A couple bucks might get you a sample copy if you can convince Grubb you're sincere about contributing.

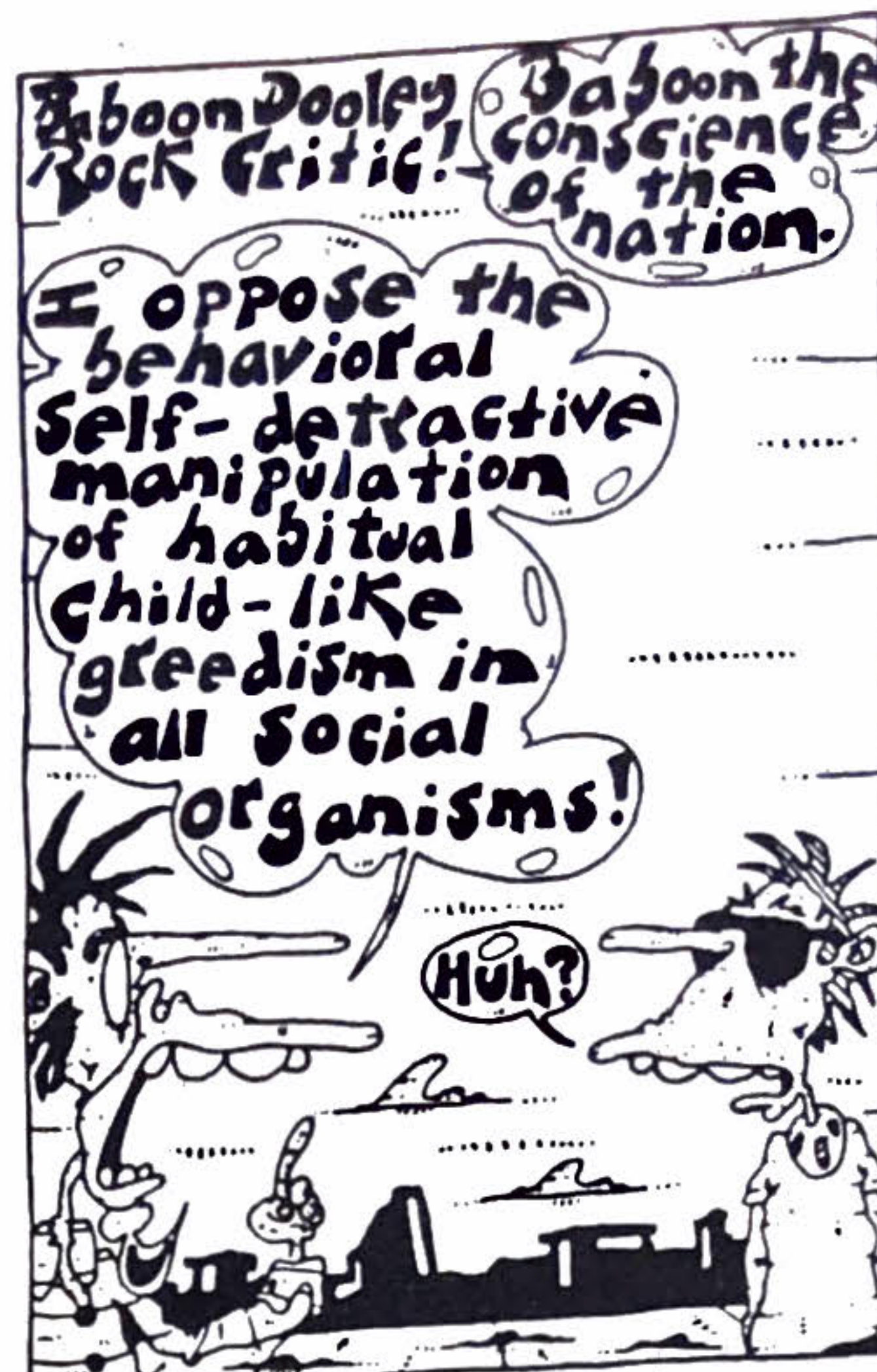
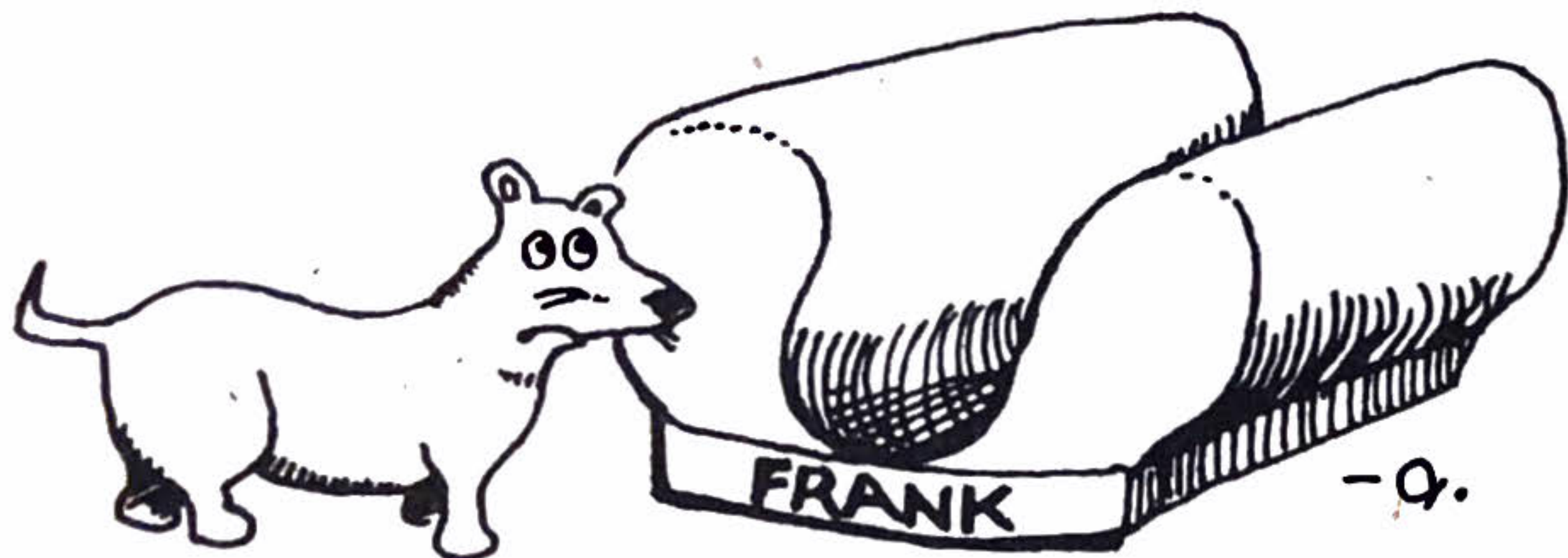
* LA BLUES (\$1 from Eddie Flowers, PO Box 1373, Culver City, CA 90232): In the course of just a handful of sharp looking pages Eddie covers the best in movies, zines and music -- and really does cover the best! You know the guy's cool, he writes for PIG PAPER, NEXT BIG THING and now FORCED EXPOSURE, so don't miss his own zine. P.S.: Eddie was into garage punk before you were. Believe it!

* MIXTURE (\$2.50 from D.D. Fave, 712 Wilshire Blvd. #38, Santa Monica, CA 90401): Kind of celebratory of the inter-cultural mixture in Southern California. Various folks are talked to about their mainly interesting lives (isn't everyone's!) and how they ended up in LA. Music coverage in this premiere issue is info on New Orleans' music and a look back at an historic Chicago blues festival. Plenty of poetry here (including by renowned individuals like Meltzer and Wanda Coleman) and short stories and essays and wow this is one heady mixture! Connected by blood and marriage to Rhino Records, one of the world's most happening labels thanks to their crucial re-issues; get ready for a 3-volume set of the best of New Orleans R&B.

* NEXT BIG THING (Send a bunch of money and/or IRCs, you won't regret it, to Lindsay Hutton, 20 Albert Ave., Grangemouth, Shropshire, FK3 9AT, SCOTLAND): The actual issue is a fat digest, practically READER'S DIGEST size, and in between issues Lindsay prints up all kinds of stuff to keep you busy. If I said this was the bible of garage

punk I wouldn't be far wrong. It includes writers from America like Chris Stig, Eddie Flowers, Gary Pig, John Crawford and Trevor of B-SIDE from down under and it even has garage punk scene reports from all over!! A totally and undeniably essential zine even if Lindsay is a little picky about non-garage style punk that lots of us also like.

* REASONS FOR LIVING (\$1 from Jim DeRogatis, 74 Beach St., Jersey City, NJ 07307): Subtitled "A fanzine for gushing optimists" but that doesn't stop Jim from liking stuff like BLUE VELVET or VAMP (films) are Pussy Galore and Phantom Toll Booth (bands). Jim had threatened to move to the entirely one man/one zine mode but has retained some contributors while doing all the actual reviews himself. A nice reminder of what end was up on his early solo LPs appears here, as does a history of Jim's own bands through the ages.



possibly Subversive Flower Arrangements

And Other Supectable Thoughts of an Egoist
Individualist Labor Revolutionary

by Kerry Wendell Thornley

[Editor's note: The manuscript to TURNING OVER NEW LEAVES OF GRASS, which was published in part in FF20, seems to have been hijacked by Maoist Smurfs from an Evil Empire. Until we have successfully negotiated a trade of mil-spec printer ribbons for its release, we are pleased to present this substitute feature. Sorry for any confusion.]

"The antenna on every house, the transistor on every beach, the jukebox in every bar or restaurant are as many cries of desparation..."

--Herbert Marcuse

"Hey! That's me up there on the jukebox!"

--Linda Ronstadt

An interesting glimpse of myself: I entered the bathroom of the Pancake House this morning. A guy began ranting at me about not wanting to get my fleas on him, etc. (There are fleas at Cara's and it feels like I may have acquired a few.) I answered him, without thinking, exactly as people deal with me when I confront them plainly about the realities of technocracy -- even going so far as to tell him he was acting like he was mentally ill! All this was unpremeditated. The confrontation surprised me. My response astonished me. Because he was being rather hostile, all I was thinking of was my own defense: "You can't talk to me like that," in effect, "because nobody talks to anybody like that -- so quit." As for the content of what he was saying, that seemed wholly beside the point at that instant.

There is an unwritten rule in society that if someone doesn't like what someone else is saying, they may object to the format first, if it is out of order, before it is necessary to deal with whether or not it is true.

Usually, where conspiracies are involved, the panic button is of course PARANOIA.

"You're paranoid" means: I don't like the way you are expressing yourself and so I don't have to deal with what you say unless it is more convincingly, and conventionally, presented.

Wang Hongwen: "The army is not in our hands. We've no men in the army. That is my greatest worry."

"The army is not reliable. It is most dangerous. If the army turns against us, what do we do then?"

--Zhang Chunqiao

"...mass movements have been specifically ruled out of the program of the Communist Party. The new Party statutes adopted at the Twelfth Congress in 1982 have been shorn of the leftist rights of political agitation and struggle that were built into the documents during the cultural revolution."

--VERDICT IN PEKING

I submit the following: when mass movements are suppressed, conspiracies increase in number and intensity. The less revolutionary action there is,

the more political coups rise in importance.

(The author of VERDICT IN PEKING is rather obviously biased and I've quoted him out of context in order to avoid including his evaluation, which seems that of a typical bourgeois reporter.)

The momentum of the past keeps pushing politics towards the right and in an authoritarian direction, because people are used to being ripped off and blindly following orders and even boasting about how good that makes them, until they believe it themselves.

So if someone veers too far to the left or too far in the direction of liberty, it is a simple error to correct. The only danger is when the leftwing or libertarian movement is infiltrated by agents provocateurs for the precise purpose of burning everyone out so that what is called Leftism is only a new form of exploitation or what is called liberty is only tyranny from another direction. Both factors were involved in Maoism -- a basically sincere leftism which was unfortunately, because of its military origins, too authoritarian. The Cultural Revolutions were basically sincere efforts to reduce the amount of authority. In both, though, there were many people who didn't understand that sincerity was present -- some of them probably Thule Society racists and others their arch enemies under cover -- so the predictable results ensued.

What seems to have destroyed Mao's ideal of a China modeled after the aspirations of the Paris Commune was a war between a racist and an anti-racist secret society, neither of which understood in the least what he was talking about.

Gary Robinson seems upset with me, possibly because of the warmth I felt for T.J. I don't think of Gary as any particular authority or as anyone particularly sympathetic to my goals -- nor T.J. either, although I like her more as a person. There are lots of things about both that annoy me -- including the expectation that I must chase carrots they dangle in front of me.

I've long ago learned that everyone who isn't Caucasian doesn't necessarily oppose racist genocide. I've even met blacks who were alleged afterwards to be KKK agents. In this age of electronic invisible empires, everyone seems to work out their own adjustments to the conditions.

Gary has always encouraged me to believe that he is among the most opportunistic in this respect -- for reasons of his own I cannot evaluate.

T.J. seems callous -- for reasons of her own I cannot guess at.

That is just the way things are these days, though. I cannot read minds nor anticipate long-range intentions. So I select my friends in terms of visible things. Gary is very much a game player. T.J. plays the same games half-heartedly and only because everyone who deals with me is required to. I couldn't begin to decide which of them, if either, is good or bad in political terms.

In any case, you have to come to terms with the fact that my personal life isn't your political property. You have to organize and stand on your own feet. I'm not going to choose personal friends in terms of their alleged political qualities.

My political thinking is confined as much as possible to the plain words of my notebooks [like this one. Ed.] --not to where I go or who I talk to. There doesn't seem to be a provision in the scheme of things as it stands for anything so direct and comprehensible. It would be everywhere if it were possible to accomplish things elsewhere. With my level of knowledge and skill, it isn't.

Lyndon Johnson -- with a Rockefeller restriction upon which his life depended -- seeing things in

anti-authoritarian leftist terms -- instigating U.S. agents to begin the Cultural Revolution in China, though not for the leftist motives. Perhaps something to do with undermining Chinese support for North Vietnam. This is my interpretation of a symbolic message.

Jonathan Leek!
Jonathan Livingston Seagull!
"Joe-Na-Than"
"Joe" asks for "Snow" ("FBI") rather than bust ultra-left Maoists!
The Conspiracy was trying to find out why in 1967!

"Mah fellow Americans, all reactionaries and other imperialists are paper tigers. Or is it the other way around? And now I'd like to say a few words about Texas."

No wonder J.R. "Bob" Dobbs is "moving out Monday", eh?

ROIR

JAMES CHANCE, 8 EYED SPY, DICTATORS, SUICIDE, NEW YORK DOLLS, BAD BRAINS, FLESH TONES, GERMS, TELEVISION, NICO, JOHNNY THUNDERS, BUSH TETRAS, RAINCOATS, MCS, GLENN BRANCA, FLIPPER, PRINCE FAR I, EINSTURZENDE NEUBAUTEN, RICHARD HELL, LOUNGE LIZARDS, 1 AND THE MYSTERIANS, CHRISTIAN DEATH, DICKIES, SKATALITES, UK SUBS, MUTE BEAT, SEX GANG CHILDREN, JOE "KING" CARRASCO, DUB SYNDICATE, POLYROCK

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52

QUESTION:

Don't you think there is anything good in our 5000 year old way of doing things?

ANSWER:

I favor anything done before my birth as a plus -- otherwise I wouldn't exist. As to religion I'm all for it and the more creeds the better. It makes the one true religion (mine) inevitable. I tell my friends in the clergy to save the faith for J.C. BRAINBEAU,

the all religions pope (self appointed). I've been won over to capitalism but it needs an inflation and unemployment ending correction. That involves 90% unfixed wages as opposed to past and present 90% fixed wages. Of course, wars can never be ended unless we change the suicidal war-waging strategy -- no chance-selected winners.

Send S.A.S.E. to:

4 WAY HEREBEFORE
Box 2243

YOUNGSTOWN -- OHIO, 44504
\$

Free Avi Naftel!

PO Box 1313, Lawrence, KS 66044

Dear Friends,

Avi Naftel is an anarchist who is serving a 25-year sentence in the Arizona State Penitentiary at Florence. Avi is a citizen of the United Kingdom and is eligible for transfer to the United Kingdom under the Council of Europe Convention for the Transfer of Sentenced Persons. Upon transfer to the United Kingdom, Avi will potentially be eligible for immediate release, since the receiving country can shorten a prisoner's sentence to reflect sentences for similar offenses in that country. Avi has now spent five years of his life in prison in Arizona. With a transfer back to England, Avi Naftel could be a free man.

So far, prison authorities in England seem willing to accept the transfer but the process is being blocked by Arizona prison officials. What is needed now is some public pressure on Arizona officials as well as support for cooperative officials in the United Kingdom. I would like to ask you to take a few minutes out of your busy lives to write a letter to the officials listed below asking for Avi's transfer. Letters don't necessarily have to be typed-- a quick handwritten note is far better than nothing at all. If you only have the time, energy, and/or postage for one or two letters, the Arizona prison officials are first priority. For those of you with lots of time and energy, local officials and media are other good targets. If you aren't sure how to start, a sample letter is enclosed, along with addresses of the people to write to. Also enclosed is a letter from Avi and some excerpts from a report on conditions in Arizona State Prison Cell-block Six.

"While there is a soul in prison I am not free"-- we've all heard this slogan many times. Do we really take it seriously? If so, it seems like it means we have a responsibility to do what we can to get our brothers and sisters out from behind bars.

Thanks for your help.

Love,

Boog Highberger

Boog Highberger
PO Box 1313
Lawrence, KS 66044

PLEASE SEND LETTERS TO:

Mr. Sam Lewis, Director
Arizona Dept. of Corrections
1601 West Jefferson
Phoenix, AZ 85007

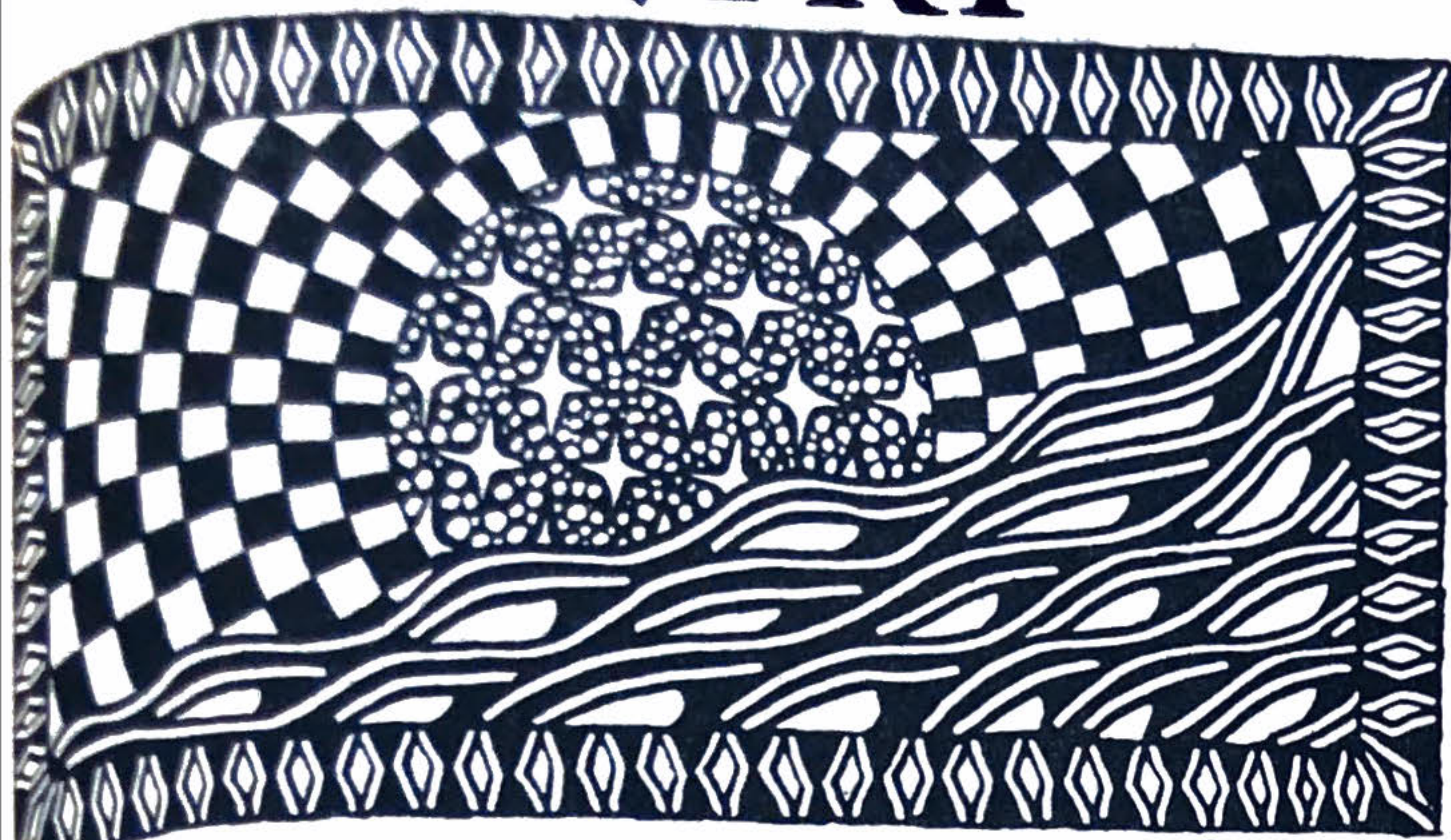
Governor Evan Mecham
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Phone: (602) 255-4331

Mr. Philip T. White, Director
Office of International Affairs
Criminal Division
PO Box 7413
Ben Franklin Station
Washington, DC 20044

Mr. David Neal
Home Office
Criminal Policy Dept.
Queen Anne's Gate
London SW1 9AT
England

POETRY



by Alison Meyers

OBERC

The reviews below are marked as to whether they are by Alison or the Aeditor. We strongly encourage you to send poetry for review to Alison at Everyday Books, PO Box 806, Willimantic, CT 06226 (mark whatever you send clearly as being for review in FF, or it might get eaten by the bookstore). This should assure you of quicker reviews (and probably more insightful ones as well) in the future. Of course, if for any particular reason you want the Aeditor to do the reviewing you can just send your stuff along to the Rensselaer address, but in that case please include a note as to why you're doing it this way.

THE AMERICAN, by Zen Sutherland (39¢ postage from Mockersatz Zrox, 104 Woodgate Ct., Sterling, VA 22170): A funny, well written short, short story for grown up children familiar with middle class culture in the US. The author's understated, forgiving criticism makes this a useful, as well as an entertaining, little book. 8 saddle-stitched pages of large type and graphics. (AM)

BOGG 55 (\$3 from John Elsbeg, 422 N. Cleveland St., Arlington, VA 22201): BOGG includes lively, oftentimes insightful, reader feedback. Each poetry contribution is worth reading, and though some are better than others, we can learn a little from every one. To mention a few: we especially like S.K. Morgan's unpretentious, amusing day-in-the-life-of poem "Life in the Fast Lane". Philip Miller's "And the Story Continues" is, among other things, a funny/sad chronicle of generational alcoholism. We like the solid ideas/politics in Kit Knight's little story, "Sugar-coated History", despite finding her narrative form stiff and predictable. Overall, BOGG has a style and energy worth encountering. 64 stapled pages. (AM)

CASSETTE POETRY

TENDER HOOKS, by Tina Fulker (Paycock Press, PO Box 3567, Washington, DC 20007): A professional looking and sounding package -- although inclusion of an accompanying printed text would have boosted my appreciation. It's worth mentioning the musicians by name, since their performance on this tape is crucial to the overall composition: John Ramo, guitars; Zenon Slawinski, keyboards; John Hogayzel, drums. We find Fulker's "Throwaway Lines" on side two of real interest, while pieces like "Teenage City/Rainbow Boy" (the words here are obscured by experimental sound effects) and "Gash" (the lines repeat but do not progress or have a cumulative strength) fail to hold our attention. The poet has a pleasant, clear voice and, along with the musicians represented, gives us something

worth listening to. (AM)

HAIGHT STREET, 1985, by Vernon Frazer (132 Woodycrest Dr., East Hartford, CT 06118): This is the second collection of Vernon reading his own "Beatnik poetry" -- poetry accompanied by bass and, on one cut, bass flute. He writes from life, mainly from odd corners of it like the strip joint, the decaying bar, and the cancer ward. Probably the best piece here is "Pilgrimage to the Big Sur Inn", which encapsulates the theme running all through this tape of the old days dead and ossified. The overall mood ends up being quite foreboding, speaking of a life in the cracks rather than between them. (MG)

GARGOYLE 29 (PO Box 3567, Washington, DC 20007): For poetry aficionados who can rarely get to live performances, cassettes like this one go a long way toward filling a gap. I applaud the artists' collective effort in keeping the oral tradition alive. High marks for Sharon Morgenthaler's three short poems -- pieces springing from ordinary, workaday life, written and delivered with rhythm and humor. Nigel Henshelwood reads his work well, but his compositions are wordy and too abstract. Ann Downer's "Dead Cat" has power and originality, but I find her other efforts less effective. Can't get into Thad Ziolkowski's sing-song delivery and near-rhymes, but I suspect that his oral presentation undermines the written text. Other writers and artists on this tape: Dyane Fancy, Robert Gray, Wayne Kline, Beth Joselow, Michael S. Weaver, and Zenon Slawinski. The cassette's musical portions are thoroughly enjoyable and provide an intellectual breather. Overall, GARGOYLE is a cassette packed with worthwhile, stimulating material. (AM)

CONVERTIBLES, by Rev. Hunter (\$1 from Wino Poem Series, Newark Press, 8123 19th Pl., Adelphi, MD 20783): A concrete poem that can (should) be read in a couple of directions (down, across) -- visually and intellectually suggestive material. 6 folded pages. (AM)

ENOUGH HOPE (SASE from Elissa Rashkin, PO Box 20375, New York, NY 10025): Check out the LETTERS section in this FF for information on why the editor says this shouldn't be in the poetry ghetto. Single-page poems overlay graphics of alienation. These are honest voices from the punk culture, not really condemning the current order so much as seeking to understand it. No real standouts but there aren't any real clunkers either. 16 pages minicomic size. (MG)

EYEBROWS OF GEESE, by Miriam Sagan (Dragonscales & Mane Publishing, 151 Chenery St., San Francisco, CA 94131): A booklet of haiku, with somewhat free line-lengths but the traditional feel of having captured a single moment of time for eternity. Most of these work well as split second images: "Black-capped chickadees/Startle me/Up from the headlines" is one of my favorites. 18 pp. stapled. (MG)

I WANT TO EAT YOUR STOMACH (30p. & 20p. postage from Skudge Naggernunk, The Dugeon, 77 Thompson St., Padiham, Burnley, Lancs BB12 7BG, UNITED KINGDOM): In the words of the editors: "We want the crass, the furious, the carnal, the gruesome, the kinky." Add to that description the words "puerile" and "anti-social" and you've got the picture. This kind of rag is dehumanizing and politically regressive. (AM)

KATALYST #16 (\$2 from McKettner Publishing, PO Box 85777, Seattle, WA 98145): Mostly short poetry with a couple of fragmented stories or story

fragments. The most interesting stuff here is by G. Huff, who experiments with form while still keeping some syntax -- "Ever Now A Thought..." takes place within and about a fireplace and must be seen to be appreciated. 18 pages saddle-stapled. (MG)

THE KINDRED SPIRIT #9 (\$1 from Michael Hathaway, Rt. 2 Box 111, St. John, KS 67576): A poetry tabloid that has space for reviews and market notes as well as dozens of poems. Most of these are grouped by author although there are a couple of free-for-all sections. In this issue, I enjoyed the sharp effective works of Tamera Bates and the dreamy, flowing poetry of Stacey Solifrey. There's a lot more here than I can even hint at in a short interview -- more poems for the buck than anywhere else. (MG)

KING SEX, by John Eberly (Mumbles Publications, PO Box 8312, Wichita, KS 67208; 22¢ stamp for catalog): Third part of the ROSY CUNEIFORM TRILOGY. Vivid, frequently graphic, imagery that focuses on the dark, pathetic or decadent aspects of human life -- valid observations, no doubt, but where is the cultural context that would help us to see alienation as a social, not idiosyncratic, condition? Eberly is wasting his not inconsiderable writing talent on this kind of subject matter. 36 pages saddle-staples. (AM)

MAGIC BULLET 2:4 (39¢ SASE from 169 W. Huntington St., Philadelphia, PA 19133): Though some of the contributions are somewhat impenetrable, there is a social awareness about the magazine that prevents a dismissive attitude. Caroline Burns' poem is a truly solid piece of creativity; we hope future issues will provide us with more samples of her writing. 16 stapled pages. (AM)

MADONNA OF THE DREAMS, by Lyn Lifshin (\$1 from Mockersatz Zrox, 104 Woodgate Ct., Sterling, VA 22170): Can a short (16 line) poem, regardless of quality, benefit from being printed 18 times in succession within a single chapbook? Too much artifice prevents the reader from enjoying this one poem. 18 pages saddle-stitched. (AM)

THE NEW PRESS Vol. 2 #3 (\$1.50 from Scott Martin, 127 Ludlow St. #4-C, New York, NY 10002): Fiction/Poetry/Reviews/Commentary. In this issue is an absorbing, well crafted story of personal and social dis-ease written by Jill Heyman ("A Two-Week Trial"). Tom Lane's short short story, "Blue Monday", is quirky and funny, with a theme most readers will appreciate. Another story -- "Booted", by Thomas J. Ho -- is of the slice-of-life variety. "Booted" has some good descriptive moments but never moves beyond the vaguely humorous in either tone or purpose. Brett Beeman's article on South Africa represents this magazine's attention to political matters: "Pretoria, Oh Pretoria!", though plodding and dry, is a well-researched piece worth getting through. We like Paul Weinman's unique un-self-conscious poem "Myself I Rake", but find the remaining poetry contributions less interesting. 18 saddle-stitched pages. (AM)

NEW WORD #1 (50¢ & 22¢ stamp from Earth Studio, Rte. 3 Box 133, Perryville, MO 63775): Though the eight poems contained herein are authored separately, each is like the other in emotional and stylistic strangeness. 8 pages reduced. (AM)

NOTHING SINISTER #1 (\$1.50 from Michael Hannan, 3321 N. Seminary, Chicago, IL 60657): Despite the title the best thing here is the sinister short story by Tom Johnson ("Missing in Action: Memorial Dazed 1986"), an attempt to deal with some of the social chaos following the Viet Name war. Carolyn Fisher's poem "Goin' to the Chapel of Love" is also

a profoundly affecting piece, a cry from within the bounds of marriage to the wide world outside. NS also prints photography and original artwork and has a clean but intriguing look. 24 saddle-stapled pages. (MG)

OUTRE 2 (\$1.50 from Jake Berry, 2251 Helton Dr. #N7, Florence, AL 35630): There is a network of strange people that meets in many out of the way places, and OUTRE seems to be the most recent of these. Featured poets include Webb, Dragwyla, Miskowski, Bennett, Sloan, McGlynn and other confusing voices. Styles go from formal all the way to concrete, with numerous stops in the collective unconscious in between. The overall effect of this collection is somewhat akin to being force-fed radio waves by a grinning maniac over a period of weeks. 32 pages saddle-stapled. (MG)

THE PANDEMONIUM SPIRIT (\$1.50 from bs Propaganda, PO Box 1393, Tempe, AZ 85281): Writings and collages by Jake Berry. There are a few interesting poems here with some political vision, such as the one entitled "Roaches". Unfortunately, however, Berry seems to be of the mistaken belief that using sexual imagery has an intrinsic revolutionary value. I applaud his intention to "break from the strictures of codified behavior into a liberated existence", but suspect that in terms of an effective technique, he is on the wrong path. 28 saddle-stitched pages. (AM)

POETRY S.F.#4 (\$1 from Fort Mason Center, Building D, Room 295, San Francisco, CA 94123): The Special Chicano Poetry issue of this tabloid "Quarterly for Bold and Compassionate Poetry". Interesting variety of work -- a cross-cultural selection representing both well known and little known contemporary poets. Well worth the \$5 price of a year's sub. (AM)

SIDEWALK POETRY #30 (From The Blot Publishing Empire, 233 Woodbine Ave., Toronto, ONT M4L 3P3, CANADA): A broadsheet featuring a single poem, "Going Down...", by T. Angle. It's a rich folks/poor folks juxtaposition in the best socially conscious vein. No price, but a buck should get you a few of these. (MG)

SUNDRIED FISH #3 (\$3/yr from Kristin Guzman, 3392 Rossmoor Way, Los Alamitos, CA 90720): Driven from their high-school campus, these folks have to resort to charging but the fee is on a sliding "whatever you can afford" scale. One can see how a conservative principal might have objected to the blunt language here, even though it's part and parcel of powerful expressions of the poets' thoughts. Judging from SF, the Youth of America are fed up with the world and casting about for ways to either end it or end themselves. Depressing stuff, but not without a few rays of hope. 12 pages stapled. (MG)

THE TIMES, by Dale Goodson (50¢ & 22¢ postage from manic d press, 1853 Stockton, San Francisco, CA 94133): A single poem that drags the writer into the whirlwind of today's media and eventually deposits him, bloody but unbowed, on the front page. 8 pp. "perusal" (minicomic size). (MG)

YELLOW SILK Autumn 1986 (\$4 from PO Box 6374, Albany, CA 94706): YELLOW SILK is a nationally distributed magazine with a glossy cover, an established literary reputation, and a print run and advertising rates large enough to push at the edges of the nomenclature, "small press". We review the Autumn issue because of the substantial number of poems appearing in those pages. Primarily focused on "straight" eroticism, YELLOW SILK prints, in

addition to poetry, short stories, essays and reviews, art and cartoons, and reader feedback. In this particular issue, I especially like Gail Newman's "House Near the Sea", because in it, the poet gets at a significant sexual issue (that of sexual preference) without wandering off into abstraction or giving us a lecture:

The woman in a boat in my spine, sailing.
The man turns somersaults in my bones, the man
with a scorpion's bite. The woman opens my veins
with her beautiful tongue.

I am also impressed by Gabrielle Daniels' tightly wrought poem, "The Man Who Has Breasts" -- a piece of work whose sensuality derives from its subtle undermining of gender specific stereotypes, and whose emotion springs from the intimation of a larger, whole life suggested by physical detail:

I knead them
through the rough matting --
I imagine I clutch at his heart...
...Breasts, I still think
discovered under a red sash
crossed over his heart
like an old wound
and old military decorations
some for victory
built like a wall
stone by stone...

On the other hand, I find Joel Lyman's submissions less good (and the editor includes no fewer than three) -- from his sophomoric attempt at humorous conceit in "Song of the Vulgar Refrigerator" to the poorly integrated similes and metaphors of "My Love Is":

...comely as the milk of palestine,
she is a palimpsest,
a fatal guest, the branches of her body
a bibliography of jets and crevasses...
...she is the sentry after fornication
the mountain of gems
the immobile air --

Robert R. Ward's "Can You Sense the First Stirrings of Blood?" reads like prose, is wordy, plodding, and too sentimental for my taste. "To a Certain Lady Who I Hope is Fair", by Donald Lawder, is too far removed from real-life, physical womanhood (the "lady" of the poet's imagining is "parti-colored" with "ankles cool as cream") to have much erotic or emotional impact. There are several more poets represented in this and other issues of YELLOW SILK (the winter issue is out now), a magazine worth keeping track of -- probably available at your local independent bookshop. (AM)

POETRY NEWS:

* KANGAROO COURT (847 E. 7, Erie, PA 16503) is in the process of publishing DILLINGER, a 13-volume series of poems by Todd Moore. Prepaid price for the entire set is \$45.

* POET'S MARKET (write Judson Jerome, 917 Xenia Ave., Yellow Springs, OH 45387) is looking for listings for their next edition. Write for a questionnaire to fill out if you would like to solicit poems by outside writers.

* X,Y,Z (\$1 from PO Box A-3597, Chicago, IL 60690) is a "Poetry Newsletter". Glenn Sheldon reviews various small magazines that print poetry and lists dozens more; others are in the classified section. Letters from both poets and editors indicate that this is working to get people together and get stuff printed.

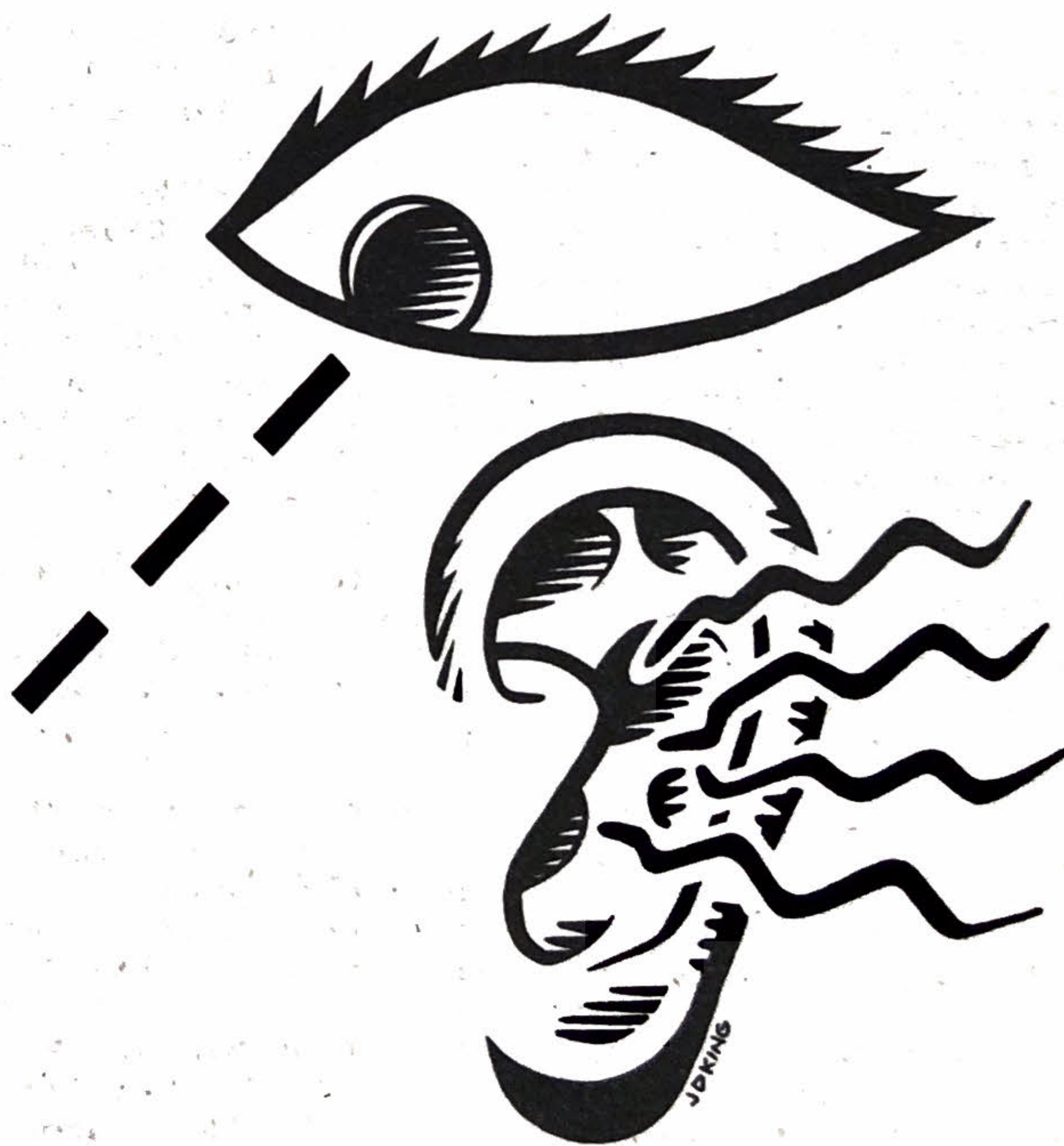
Past Blasts

Several people have suggested that I ought to clue people in on some of the past history of FF, and I'm not averse to writing something of the sort. My plan at the moment is to run this column 20 issues behind the current issue, depending on response. So, what was #1 like?

FACTSHEET FIVE #1, May 4th, 1982. 2 pages, dittoed, and sent out to a batch of unsuspecting correspondents. The press run was 50 and there were 8 reviews plus a couple of stray thoughts from the editor. Of the zines reviewed, only the Church of the SubGenius is still at the same address -- INSIDE JOKE is still publishing but Elayne moved a few years ago. The other fine things listed in #1 are long out of print, except perhaps for the one book I reviewed:

"ASSASSINS FROM TOMORROW, by Peter Heath (Lancer/Magnum/Prestige Books, 1967 pb) has the least plausible Kennedy assassination theory I've ever run across as the mainspring of its plot. Considering what they say about John Dillinger, that's quite an accomplishment. If you like schlock and inadvertently funny writing (and who doesn't) keep an eye out for this wherever you buy used books. You'll probably never find a copy, but you can read mine the next time you come to visit."

I still own the book, and you're still welcome to drop by. The line about Dillinger, of course, refers to the Kennedy assassination theory presented in Shea & Wilson's ILLUUMINATUS! trilogy, which at that time was having a vast effect on my mind. Come to think of it, it's still having a vast effect on my mind.



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Why Publish?

Editors: Why not get your own thoughts in this column? Jot down a few words and send them off to me, so that we may more effectively corrupt the youth of tomorrow into the fanzine hobby.

Brad Goins, RAUNCH-O-RAMA:

My reasons for publishing: primarily, to give people information they wouldn't get otherwise. Secondly, to get a real sense of accomplishment and satisfaction.

Misha Chocholak, NEW PATHWAYS:

To save America from the Schlock Factor!

Rick, DEREGULATOR:

Ultimately I want the DEREG to pay its own way, and maybe pay me some too. But that's not the only (or even main) reason I publish. I love to stick my neck out, find out what people think (if they think), and maybe give them something to think about. I opine occasionally for radio, and local cable TV, but only in writing and in one-to-one conversation can you communicate something that's likely to stick. As much as I adore conversation, there are only so many people you can meet face-to-face and talk to. That leaves writing, which isn't a bad choice anyway.

The DEREG's style isn't as personal as other underground zines I've read, but it's still a chance to put a bit of me out there on the front lines for others to hack away at. The DEREG may develop a more personal voice as I become a more comfortable writer.

Another reason to publish is that you end up meeting the neatest people through their own publications. Boy, is it fun to go to the mailbox!

Finally, about money. I'm fairly poor, as I imagine most underground publishers are. So if my zine can pay its own way, I could easily find good uses for the constant subsidies the DEREG gets from my pockets. But even if it never turns a profit, I look on publishing as a fun hobby. Some people join health clubs, some ski, some go to fine restaurants, others enjoy expensive chemical stimulation; I publish a newspaper.

Chris, SCRAP:

Because I really like sharing my twisted thoughts with other concerned people in this world! I really see a need to shock the public, and maybe they will see the world around them for what it really is...I like to do it with pictures and words, just to have fun and to meet (through letter writing) other people who have similar thoughts and views. Plus it keeps me out of the bars.

Ace Backwords, TWISTED IMAGE:

WHY PUBLISH? For me the answer is simple: mail, mail and more MAIL!!!! Everyday is Christmas when you open up that box and see it stuffed with 5 or 10 goodies. The laws of pubbing karma certainly hold true that the more you put out the more you get back. There's all sorts of strange people out there dying to hear what YOU have to say. And FACTSHEET 5 is an excellent place to find 'em. Put out a lil' xerox zine, send it out to a few places, get on a few mailing lists, and the next thing you know YOU'RE HOOKED FOR LIFE!

WHY NOT TO PUBLISH? Well, to make money for one thing. Hey Mike, I was bemused by your plug that I got one hand on the pulse of the counterculture and the other hand making a grab for its wallet. The brutal fact is I (like many ziners, possibly including FF) have lost thousands of dollars from my OWN wallet to keep publishing my stuff. If I was in this for the money I certainly wouldn't direct my pub at the young punks, starving artistes, and off-beat oddballs that make up 90% of our readers. But like I say, you get back what you put into it.

Pat Gault, JUST BECAUSE:

My reasons for publishing JB are pretty selfish. I get bored a lot and I'm really tired of the narrow minded hardcore zines which are produced locally. SKATE DEPRESSION, BURNT CEREAL and KFC are the other zines in town. Ultimate fantasies for fanzines -- interview with Bo Diddley, Kurt Vonnegut, and the cinematographer of REPO MAN, PARIS TEXAS, STRANGER, THAN PARADISE, etc. (Can't think of his name off hand).

/* You know, I think Pat may have come up with another question for this column. Any other publishers care to send in their ultimate fanzine fantasies? */

Bob Banner, CRITIQUE:

I publish to counter the consensus reality makers. We need more options, alternatives, different and frequently strange and eerie lenses to perceive Reality. Tunnel-vision Reality is boring -- no matter what lense you happen to be wearing. It's rigid, automatic, lifeless and extremely predictable. How can one be free if one doesn't choose his/her own reality? If one succumbs to consensus reality without question or options or choice then one remains a slave to history and human nature.

I publish because I know that I need that variety of perspectives. And in order to guarantee a steady flow of articles, books and material which continually question my emotional attachments to ideologies I need to be in a job/career which will encourage that type of re-education or "undoing" of culturally and politically indoctrinated beliefs and values.

And it becomes a perpetual challenge to make the publishing venture WORK in the real world. One has to learn efficient business methods, technological savvy, contractual agreements with book authors, and the Market, among a plethora of other survival tactics. And one finds out through the process that one is continually reevaluating the ideas of "success" and "purpose". It becomes an ever demanding challenge to take that responsibility for other people's intellectual labors, sacrifices, purposes and styles of expression and do the best you can to market it so other people can get just as excited, enthused, inspired and enthralled as you, the publisher, did when you first read the piece.

But, also, just as important but perhaps not thought about enough, is the fact that contributors/writers become alter egos. "I" want to write everything, about many things; "I" see potential articles, perspectives, slants in many things. Yet, "I" limit myself to specific things that I can write about -- but that doesn't mean I want to stop writing. So, when a contributor writes a piece (either an original piece or a result of my proings and various skeletal outlines) and I like it -- I want to immediately publish it because the piece has become a part of me since I was either too lazy to produce it or too sloppy to do the necessary investigation. The article or review BECOMES what I've wanted to express but didn't. Thereby, I feel the necessary obligation to act as its propagandist and to insure its successful expression within the structure of a book, journal or pamphlet.



What do you know about AMERICAN FORUM? On all the copies they list you just about first on the acknowledgement lists. How come? Did you know that you're still being advertised in the SO. LIBERTARIAN MESSENGER at a price of one dollar for a copy? What do you do if somebody answers that ad?

--Bag of Water

/* All I know about AMERICAN FORUM is that it is obviously published by a man of good taste. As for the one dollar ads, they're all over the place, multiplying beyond my ability to stop them. At the moment, I still honor those requests. The problem is self-limiting, though, as all of those ads have the old address and pretty soon mail will stop being forwarded. */

Since I'm cheap and won't subscribe, I'll simply send another buck in three months, except I'll use a different name in a different city. This I will continue til I decide to quit, but you'll never know cos I'm not gonna tell you.

--Thomas Anderson

/* That's OK: I'll just send your copy to a different city each time. Not necessarily the city you're living in, though. */

Say something good about the Post Office! It's the last true tool of democracy! Once it falls prey to the independent carrier services, we'll never know where anything went; there'll be no control, no identity, no worker pride, no ethic, and FACTSHEET FIVE will be misplaced, destroyed, censored and refused as a tool of Communist infiltration! Think about it.

--Remy

/* Yes, but will we be able to tell the difference? */

Thanks for the latest issue of FACTSHEET FIVE... I've ordered five things from it; judging by past performance, I'll probably get three of them.

--Dave Reissig

/* Good heavens! Readers, are things really that bad, or does Dave just go for the lunatic fringe of the things I review? */

I'll be blunt: expecting your \$\$-strapped pubs to fund you is wrong. Go where the money is... LIBRARIES, who are crazy for resource and reference material.

--Georgina Bezenar

/* So far, my attempts at marketing to libraries have been unsuccessful. Part of this is difficulty in finding them; part is lack of time; part is probably my refusal to overcharge libraries for their subscriptions. But if any of you readers want to ask your local library to carry FF, go right ahead. They can even order via Faxon if they want. */

I know this probably sounds cliched but we want to thank you for keeping FACTSHEET FIVE alive and kicking butts of apathy or hopelessness. In an area known as the Murder Capital we can use your remarkable publication as a continuing source of alternative information and even creativity. Like

don't stop now.

--Bill B.

/* Who cares if it's cliched, I eat this stuff up! */

I have to dissent -- I guess everyone's noticed that about me -- I have to dissent from your review of KICK IT OVER. If the rag is "anti-authoritarian" the letters column, which you laud, is not the reason. My letters are banned, but not for lack of interest, since KIO printed one after I tricked them with pseudonymity and remailing. David Crowbar's critical letter was only printed after unacknowledged deletions of the portions these ex-Leninists weren't able to handle. KIO once "loosed" a letter of mine critical of feminism after promising to publish it, but strange to say, provision of a duplicate did not suffice for publication.

In KIO you can espouse electoralism and sympathise with (Quebecois) nationalism, you can cheerlead terrorism a la Direct Action and preach as well as practice censorship, and you can print plugs for the Marxist thugs of PROCESSED WORLD -- but just try to criticize feminism! When POPULAR REALITY published my critique of feminism elaborated from the suppressed letter to KIO, Lynna Landstreet of KIO wrote in voicing a wish to put my pecker in a pencil sharpener. With trash like these parading as "anti-authoritarians" you can see why I claim to be nothing of the sort.

--Bob Black

/* Well, I guess nobody's perfect. My own feeling about anti-authoritarian zines is that the majority of them do get some interesting and useful information out, and there's no need to allow every nut, not even every anti-authoritarian nut, access to the same pages. But I do think there is some responsibility to be consistent, and perhaps KIO falls down in this regard. Incidentally, if the KIO folks wish to respond at reasonable length I'll be happy to print their letter, and even let the argument go for a few rounds, but at some point I will start ignoring mail on this topic, just as I do with some previous letter column debates. I will not have this zine turned into a free fire zone. */

I received the REMAINS of FACTSHEET FIVE #20 in my P.O. box today. The newsprint format MIGHT be okay if it was backed up by a solid cover...or else mailed in some sort of protective wrapping.

--Carol

/* I'm investigating a heavier cover for future issues, although there have not been many complaints. And of course I'll replace any copies of FF eaten by the Post Office, just as I did with Carol's. So if you have any problems in getting FF, PLEASE let me know. */

Some puzzling thoughts: what is "pagan", "punk", "mail art", "fanzine" as you use it in FF?

--Mary

/* You can find out about some of these by sending a SASE for a copy of the FACTSHEET FIVE glossary, although I won't even try to define "punk" (Shane, care to take a shot?). As for the rest, Pagans believe in some sort of nature religion, mail

art is art transmitted through the mails for democratic enjoyment, and a fanzine is anything that isn't professionally published and making money. These are imprecise definitions; I can do better if asked to distinguish whether or not something falls in these categories. Just like knowing art when I see it. */

With all that material you get in the mail, and the vast piles it must form in your house, it's hard to imagine you actually sitting down and reading this 11'1 publication of mine. Thanks.

--Jay Harber

/* No sweat, Jay. If it wasn't for all the 11'1 publications, FF wouldn't exist at all. I read everything (at least parts of everything) and enjoy just about all of it. */

I'd like to say that I'm glad you're providing this service. (No one else seems to be doing it.) The length of the reviews seems right. I doubt that you could make them longer without being so cramped for time that the whole thing fell apart. And if the reviews were any longer, it would be a real strain on my time to read them.

--Brad Goins

/* Thanks for the egoboo. You're right, longer reviews are out of the question on my part, at least for the time being. But I wonder what proportion of my readers actually read the whole review section? */

Thanks for the new FF. I love it and am always looking forward to the next issue. I love the new size and format on the newsprint paper. Maybe it's just MY eyes, I don't know but it seems easier to read.

--R.K. Sloane

/* Well, you're not alone. A lot of people wrote in to endorse the newsprint paper on grounds from esthetics to practicality (Luke McGuff thinks that FF should be made to wear out so it can't become a collectors item). And no one wrote to bitch about the new paper. So unless the complainers speak up, I won't even feel guilty about it anymore. */

Your magazine is quite impressive; I can think of no other source where the information is quite as comprehensive or current. It's really too bad that lack of funds precludes a more attractive finished product. The hard work which you obviously put into this work deserve much better; and I can hardly believe that a magazine of this nature would not be much in demand if proper distribution channels were worked out. Certainly the underground small press has grown enormously just in the past ten years.

--Michael G. Adkisson

/* Sooner or later I'll get a better computer printer; until then, I'm satisfied with legibility. After all, this is much better than the first few issues were in terms of attractiveness. I can't believe that there wouldn't be an enormous demand either; that's why I'm still learning (albeit slowly) how to get the word out. But even with all the false starts I've made, FF has grown in circulation 4000% in the past five years; few other periodicals can make that claim. */

I assembled all of the FACTSHEET FIVES in my collection 2gether that I cd find 2 put them all in a special box w/ my POPULAR REALITYs & was a bit surprised 2 b reminded of just how much FACTSHEET FIVE has grown! The 5th issue (t he earliest I seem 2 have) is only 2 8 1/2 x 11 pp! Congrats & kudos!

-TENTATIVELY, a CONVENIENCE

/* People, please bear this in mind so you won't be disappointed when ordering back issues. FF didn't near a decent size until around issue 10 or so. */

Here is my latest publication...You are probably

going to put this in the poetry section but I am specifically NOT directing this to that section for a reason. I am very much against the separation of poetry from the "real world" -- I hate "creative" writing workshops that teach poetry as an end in itself and clique-ish little literary mags that no one wants to read except the contributors. Poetry is just another means of communication, like art, music and non-fictional prose. That is, I could write an article in an anarchist journal saying that the world is fucked up, or I could write a poem about it. The poetry in my magazine, good or bad, is not some ivory tower thing concerned only with language and rhyme -- it expresses people's real thoughts, anger, etc., just like punk music. Most of the writers in ENOUGH HOPE were punks before they were poets and social outcasts before they were punks. I think that isolating poetry from other magazine genres is negative because so many people will say "Oh, I don't like poetry" (thinking, no doubt, of the endless boring 19th century shit they had to read in high school) and skip over it. Whereas with the first of these zines I had a lot of people saying, "I don't like most poetry, but this is cool, this isn't bullshit."

That said, feel free to review my magazine as you please (of course!).

--Elissa Rashkin

/* Hmm. I shall have to think about this. The reason for splitting poetry off is the same as the reason for splitting music and movies off -- I don't feel like I have the expertise to do a good job. But perhaps I can learn if I try. Does anyone else care to vent some spleen over this? Poets, are you sick of being outcasts? Readers, would any of you read poetry if I snuck it in on you? */

/* Special note: the following two anonymous letters were received in response to my queries about David Techter and his publication WONDERLAND. WONDERLAND was devoted to the joys of observing the pre-adolescent body. */

The last issue of WONDERLAND to be published was Number 13, Spring 1986 and since David has no names and addresses he is unable to write to his subscribers. I have attempted contacting him by mail, enclosing an SASE and a pencil but no response so far. According to a letter from ***** a friend is picking up David's mail at his lockbox, but I am uncertain as to whether David is getting it or not and I am not sure what jail he is in.

Everyone has since gone further underground and most correspondence has abruptly stopped.

All we can do now is to wait for some more news from ***** who apparently still has contact, though perhaps indirectly, with David Techter, WONDERLAND's publisher.

--*****

Thought we'd drop you a line to explain why nobody has been getting anything from WONDERLAND or David Techter. The rumor your reader had heard is substantially right; David was arrested the last of May 1986 on federal charges involving child pornography. This had to do with 2-year-old ads from a defunct outfit in California called Small Wonder.

We wouldn't say David was entrapped, but his arrest was made by relying on a particularly convoluted line of reasoning. The federal judge reviewing the evidence thought so too and ruled the prosecution had nothing which they could use against David or WONDERLAND. The federal case was dropped at the beginning of July.

The main problem is state charges filed after a search of David's home and confiscation of everything the authorities thought untoward -- including all records involving correspondence and

WONDERLAND subscribers. Anyone getting mail claiming David said to write would be well advised to ignore it. Anyway, all this led to accusations of kiddie porn possession (a 10-year sentence in IL) and violation of probation. (David was serving a 3-year probation sentence for selling kiddie porn. That WAS an entrapment scheme, and according to David, the authorities had to outright lie to get him convicted.)

So this dangerous man is in prison under a \$200,000 bond (which he can't financially handle) waiting for the evidence in the federal case, which the judge threw out as ridiculous, to be transferred to state hands where it can be used to less rigid standards. This may have already occurred.

As the IL law virtually outlaws the photography of children wearing less than longjohns, pants, parka, sweater, hood and scarf by anyone authorities don't like, it will very likely go the way of a nearly identical law in Ohio -- thrown out. But it seems David may in the end be found guilty of none of these "crimes" and still be held to have violated his probation.

David has a friend who picks up mail at the WONDERLAND address every month or two. We don't know how it's handled, but David isn't able to answer much of it for want of postage money -- for one thing. And we don't know what happens to moneys sent except to say that WONDERLAND claims to have had a lot of cash stolen in the mails. That's very likely as people writing it have a larger than usual desire for anonymity and don't send checks and MOs as requested.

We believe David is sincere in what he espouses and that reports by NAMBLA (and others) about him being a police agent are false. At the same time we would warn anyone writing, or dealing with David in any way, and who has parts of his life he would as soon keep to himself to be very careful. David lacks discretion and has a mania for putting people -- half of whom are undercover cops -- in touch with each other.

--*****

/* Before I go any further I'd like to thank these readers for writing. I don't know which of my readers they are and have made some changes to further disguise their identity even beyond the pseudonyms they used -- and in case anyone intends to get nosy, the originals are gone.

That said, I'm appalled by this whole bloody mess, not only by the police handling of it, but by the lack of response on the part of the underground press community. Millions for Jello Biafra and not one cent for kiddie pornographers seems to be our rallying cry. (The similar case involving the Schuytens a few years ago drew a similar lack of interest from the underground).

All I have to say is that we, who depend on relatively unfettered speech for unpopular opinions, ought to support free speech in all of its guises, bar none. It may be trite, but Neimoller's famous "First they came for..." quote does apply here. */

Hope you will mention our BBS when and if you have another such listing:

SMOF-BBS 512-836-7663
Science fiction, fantasy, gaming, animation,
high technology and similar topics of interest to
the SF community.

--Jules Verne, remote sysop

BBS listings are great! (Unfortunately my Sprint #'s just ran out). It would be nice to see reviews of 'em.

--Mykel Board

/* I think that's a great idea myself. But I don't have the time or budget to do it properly, so...if there are any readers out there with the expertise, resources and time to do a BBS column

I'd love to add you to the staph. The pay is nonexistent and the deadlines are strict, but think of the fame! */

Great that you're able to sustain such an active readership, tho you've such a curious mixture of interests.

One thing I've to comment about & that seems like your writers have a stock view of the experimental arts world (which is almost exclusively what I'm in contact with) which inevitably suffers from lack of consistent, understanding & informative reviews & commentary. Stances such as noise, non-syntax, abstation, intermedia, etc. have remained the most radical, yet distrusted creations tho all have been in existence since the beginning of the century.

All this is to say that I think you've a very important magazine going with more & more clout but I'd like to see the reviews of experimental books, tapes & contacts handled with the same empathy as the anarchist & mainstream small press.

--Miekal And

/* I think the basic problem here is that the experimental stuff is so unaccessible to those of us used to more traditional arts. I can see two ways in which you could help correct this stance. The first would be to point me towards a good source of information and explanations of experimental arts, preferably written for a five-year-old. The second would be to teach by demonstration -- send me about a page of what you would consider to be consistent, understanding and informative reviews for publication in the next FACTSHEET. I'm always willing to try to learn new tricks. */

An Open letter to all Wiccans, Pagans and New Age People:

I have noticed that a number of people who I am in contact with are experiencing various degrees of negativity in their lives. And I've also become aware of the fact that people like ourselves, world-wide, are also having problems.

In the last few years many of us have "come out of the closet". We attend group gatherings, newsletters are printed, we place ads, etc. We are now visible in one way or another to the general public.

We are no longer old wives' tales or misguided nuts in the public's eyes. We are living people following our religions as we see fit. And this has really gotten some segments of society in a major uproar!

I've come to believe that ALL of us are under major Fundamentalist psychic attack.

We tend to only worry about such attacks from other magickal people. Psychic power is a force that can be generated by anyone. The cone of power is not our private domain.

There are groups all over this country meeting two or more times a week for their religious services. And at these services, they are praying, loud and long, for our destruction. Attend one of these meetings sometime and experience the power they raise. These people are again, as in the burning times, advocating our death.

Don't you think it's about time we got our heads out of the sand?

We have got to start making a concentrated effort to protect ourselves and diffuse this negative energy that is being directed at us.

I would like to propose that every organized group and individual set aside a minimum of one ritual a month for protection and cleansing. Send this psychic garbage back where it came from, or whatever you feel comfortable with. But let's quit letting it affect us.

The gods help those that help themselves.

--Prairie Wind

I predict you'll make a living off your incredible efforts within, oh, ten years.

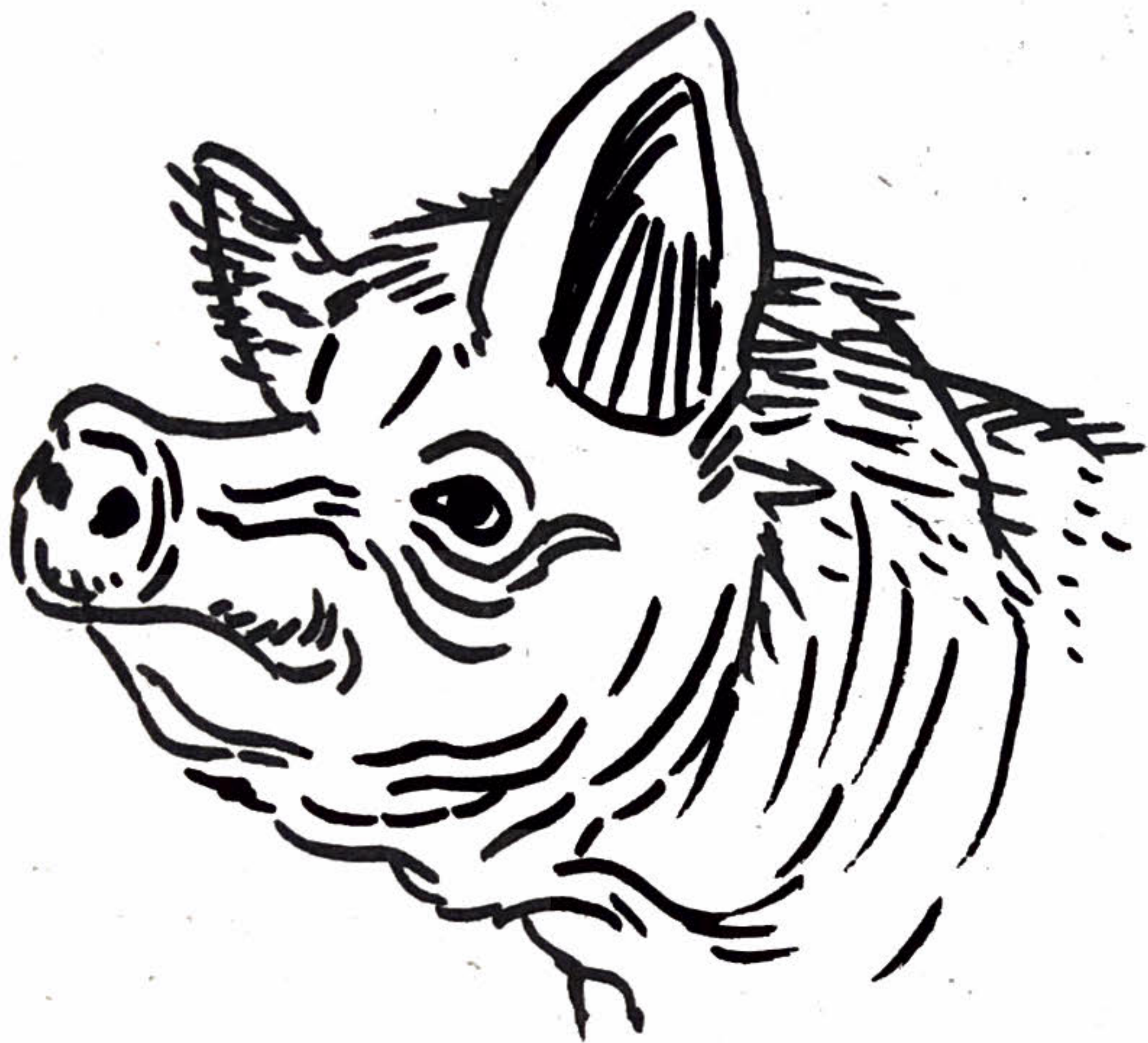
--Trevor

/* Gad, I hope so! */

Hey, Mike, like y'should be writing, uh, Other Stuff, too, y'know. You've got a good way with the words. Lotsa people don't...

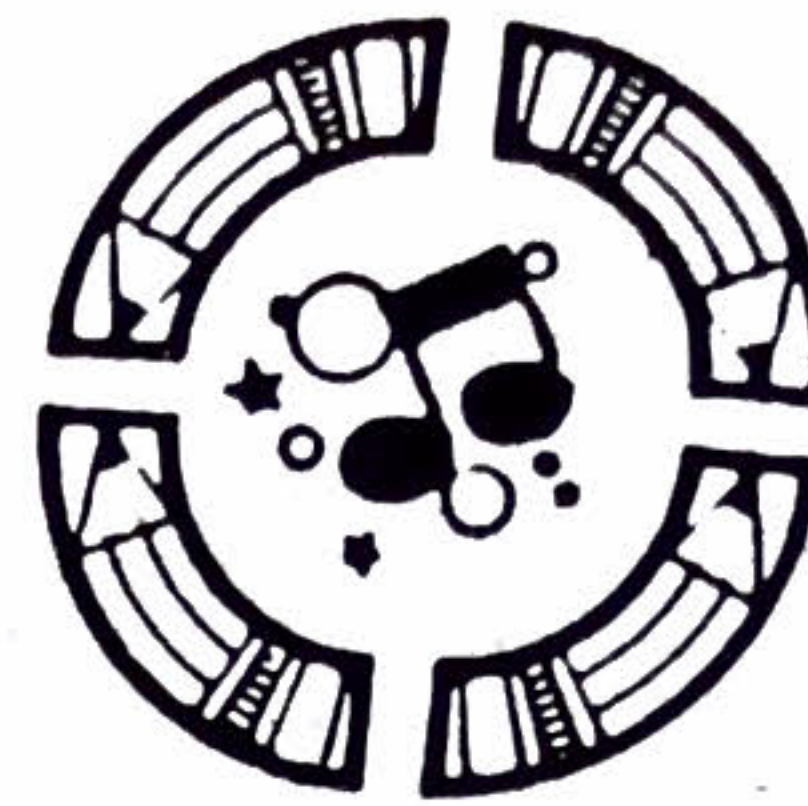
--CF Kennedy

/* Well, I should be writing a thesis some time over the next year, but somehow I don't think there is much interest among my readers in BUILDING AN INFRASTRUCTURE: THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF STANDARDS AND THE GROWTH OF COMPUTING, 1939-1954. On the other hand, watch for a book on (what else?) fanzine publishing, out from Loompanics sometime this millenium. And I'm available for editorials, fanzine articles, and lectures if anyone cares to get in touch. */



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BOOKS

THERE'S NOTHING
LIKE CURLING UP
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In this section, I review literature of a non-periodical nature; that is, both books and pamphlets. This section is longer than usual because I didn't manage to get to the book reviews last time. I expect there will still be a few things leftover for next issue, but complaining about this won't help. So, without further ado, let me present:

A. Aiello, *IL SORRISO VERTICALE* #1 (\$5 from V. Cervignano 15, 95129 Catania, ITALY): An international mail-art book, apparently the first of a series. It contains more text than art, although the results of two or three shows are presented. A big section of music reviews as well as some fanzine reviews appears, in addition to texts from some leading mail artists. The major drawback is that only about 20% of the contents are translated into English -- the rest are presented only in Italian. For the hardcore mail artist only. (~120 pp. paperback)

Vinnie Bartilucci, *DIARRHETICS* (25¢ from 45 Newburgh St., Elmont, NY 11003): This is another SubGenial instructional pamphlet from Finest Kind Bargain Basement folks. This one deals with that butt of humor, the porcelain throne, and how a SubGenius may properly comport himself upon it. Proper Church dogma, but more than a little sophomoric. For the hardcore SubG ONLY. All others will be bored and/or offended. (1 sheet pamphlet)

Bob Black, *THE ABOLITION OF WORK AND OTHER ESSAYS* (\$5 postpaid from Bob Black, PO Box 431, Boston, MA 02258; Checks to Donna Kossy): There are probably two or three of you out there who have, as I have, seen most of the material collected here. You may skip to the next review (though if your copies of the original Last International posters are as tattered as mine, you might want this handy collection anyways). The rest of you should consider buying this book, if only to see what the fuss is going to be all about.

Bob Black, for anyone who's missed reviews of his previous work, is a radical problem child. His problem is the inverse of Rodney Dangerfield's: He ain't got no respect to give to anyone else. So instead, people, organizations, and institutions come in for some of the most withering prose this side of Tony Alamo.

This collection of essays leads off (after some

laudatory prose from Ed Lawrence and Ivan Stang) with a reprint of Bob's pamphlet, *THE ABOLITION OF WORK* [see FF 16]. This first salvo is fired at Bob's main target, the very institution that makes much of our society the way it is, wage slavery. He argues that work is demeaning, stupid and unnecessary, and that we should do away with it entirely -- and this is, unlike some of the rest of the pieces here, no joke. Next up are reprints of some of the classic Last International posters (alas, without the original collaged graphics), including my favorite, "Theses on Groucho Marxism". LI was Bob in his playful phase, although some of the smiles conceal a considerable amount of venom directed at church and state. There follows a section of somewhat more linear essays, written for *APPEAL TO REASON*, including a devastating critique of the Abalone Alliance and its pathetic attempt to stop Diablo Canyon and/or any group of more militant protestors.

The collection winds up with a section on "Other Vices", in which the fringe itself is examined and found wanting. Appropriate licks are administered to the feminists ("Feminism as Fascism" -- this single essay has probably made Bob the most hated man since Hugh Hefner in certain circles), the libertarians ("The Libertarian as Conservative" -- an attempt to rub the noses of some crypto-statists in their own droppings) and even the anarchists ("Anarchism and Other Impediments to Anarchy" -- a subject which is unfortunately too close to home for me to respond to dispassionately). Just reading these three essays gives one a feel for the difference between a revolutionary and a real subversive.

This is unfortunately more of a catalogue than a review, and for that I apologize. I try to be as objective as possible when dealing with Bob's work, for the simple reason that, although I personally find him to be one of the most brilliant writers of our time, many folks I know see him as a manipulative lying miserable scumbag who kicks cripples and pulls the wings off of council communists. If you only know him by that reputation, you really ought to get a copy of this book and see if it enrages you as much as it should. (159 pp. trade paperback).

B.R. Boyd, *THE NEW ABOLITIONISTS* (\$2 from Taterhill Press, PO Box 640203, San Francisco, CA 94109): Subtitled "Animal Rights and Human Liberation", this pamphlet attempts to position the animal liberation movement as the historical successor to other struggles, from the anti-slavery Abolitionists down to modern feminists. It's written on an introductory level, for the intelligent layman rather than the committed activist.

Unfortunately, the pamphlet is marred by some muddy thinking, as well as by a lack of citations (who says 170 million animals are shot for sport each year? Probably not the NRA). To take what I consider the most glaring nonsense in this pamphlet, let me quote a line or two: "The rapidly emerging trans-species ethic asks not, 'Do they look like us?' nor 'Can they reason as we do?' but rather 'Do they suffer?'" The author may think he believes this, but I doubt it. If he did, painlessly and quickly killing a game animal by surprise would be a perfectly reasonable thing to do, as long as no suffering was involved.

Still, this is a matter of phrasing rather than of fact. The idea of animal liberation being the logical successor to human liberation is an intriguing one, although I think the analogy is a bit forced at times. Boyd does present the most succinct refutation I've seen of the "Where do you draw the line?" argument against vegetarianism. And I'm glad to see a case for animal rights being made by argument rather than by tearjerking pictures. (24 pp. pamphlet)

Patricia J. Case (ed.), THE ALTERNATIVE PRESS ANNUAL, 1983 and THE ALTERNATIVE PRESS ANNUAL, 1984 (\$34.95 each from Temple University Press, Broad and Oxford Streets, Philadelphia, PA 19122): Let's get the tough part of this out of the way first: the price. These are academic press hardcovers and what that means is, even if you non-students find it hard to believe, that these are quite reasonable prices. I've seen academic books a third as thick as this and three times as expensive. This is the sort of book you ought to convince your local library to buy if the price is too steep for you personally.

Although I don't like to encourage any more fragmentation than already exists in the small press, one thing has become obvious to me: there are at least two layers of non-establishment press in this country. Most unknown is the underground, which includes the bulk of the stuff that I review in FF. More established than the underground, but not yet on top of the heap, is the alternative press. For the most part, the articles collected in these books are from the alternative, not the underground. Although some names familiar to FF readers appear (FIFTH ESTATE, POINT BLANK and NORTHERN SUN NEWS, to name a few), most of this is from things that are too big to bother trading with me (AKWESASNE NOTES, MOTHER JONES, SOJOURNER). This is not to say that there is anything wrong with these publications, only that the person whose acquaintance with the non-establishment press is through FF will find much that's unfamiliar here.

Unfamiliar though it may be, it's certainly good. By now we can recognize some of the topics Case concentrates on as having passed their peak of publicity (AIDS, Orwell) but others are as timely as ever (US government suppression of information, housing costs, the 'New Age'). Each of these volumes contains a couple of dozen of well-written articles that didn't get as wide a distribution as they should. Just flipping through these volumes again, I spot "Reagan's Seven Big Lies About Grenada" (IN THESE TIMES), "The New Witch Hunt" (PUBLIC EYE), "A Pledge of Resistance" (SOJOURNERS) and "Are Natural Disasters Natural" (SOCIALIST REVIEW). There's a whole lot of news here that the NY TIMES did not see fit to print, and that's a damned shame.

The only other minor problem with these invaluable volumes is their publishing schedule. I received these two for review in Fall of 1986, when the 1985 volume was "to be published soon" and the 1986 nominations due by November 15, 1986. But we have to face the reality that it takes a while to produce a book like this (with, incidentally, a very nice look and feel to it). I'd recommend sending in any really good articles you see in 1987 to Patricia Case as soon as you see them, with a note that asks her to consider them for the 1987 volume. (Address submissions to her at Sourcenet, PO Box 6767, Santa Barbara, CA 93160, re: Alternative Press Annual). Maybe we can get some more of the underground in within the next few years. (316 pp., 405pp. hardcovers)

Denise Dee, THE BEST OF CLOSEST PENGUINS (\$4 from 254A Oak St., San Francisco, CA 94102): THE CLOSEST PENGUINS was a fanzine that Denise published between late 1984 and mid 1986. I'm not sure I want to call this anthology an actual "best" simply because all of the stuff in the zine was so wonderful, but it's certainly a representative sample.

CP existed for people to tell the stories that they wanted to, without the formal restrictions of style or beginning & end imposed by "real" literary magazines. It attracted a crop of writers that you've probably never heard of -- people like Sue Mullery, Bob Fearing, and Charlotte Pressler -- as well as others that should be familiar to FF readers -- Luke McGuff, Carol Schneck, John E., Sean Hill.

What all of these folks have in common is that they like to write about life as it is, rather than as it should be. As a result, CP stories tended to be downers (in fact, this collection should be sampled rather than plowed through, unless you really want to get depressed) but to ring true. Life is rough, sometimes, though perhaps not as often as these authors would have you believe.

Anyhow, CP, like its predecessor LOBSTER TENDENCIES, was unique and wonderful, and I hope Denise starts another zine soon. Meanwhile, this anthology will tell you whether you agree with this crazy view of storytelling or not. (120 pp. 7 x 8 1/2)

Melita Denning, THE INNER WORLD OF FITNESS (\$7.95 + \$1.50 p&h from Llewellyn Publications, PO Box 64383, St. Paul, MN 55164-0383): This is not your average diet and exercise book (although some dietary ideas are mentioned) but rather a "Guide to Psychic Strength and Inner Health". The basic idea here is to achieve what the author calls "Radiant Fitness" by calling the energy of your Higher Self down into your Deep Mind. As such, it reads more as a primer on magick than on fitness. Although the good results possible from Radiant Fitness get occasional plugs, the method seems to be in the forefront.

The method itself consists of a series of exercises graded in difficulty, starting with simple breathing exercises and feelings of inner power and working up to relatively esoteric sexual magick. (Don't buy the book out of prurient interest, though; that's not the point). A variety of techniques are included: some simple meditations, some circle castings, how to look for a talisman and charge it, and so on.

It looks to me that if this book does anything for you it will be because of the power of wishing to make it so. I suspect there are connections between a positive attitude and a healthy body, although the most recent studies I've seen have downplayed the effect of positive thinking to heal cancer and other deadly diseases. But as far as making one FEEL fitter, these exercises may have some use.

My major complaint with this book is with its documentation, which comes in three forms. The first is reference to other magickal works, mainly published by Llewellyn. The second is anecdotal evidence -- the soldier who saw his own back, the housewife who lifted a car. Sure, these myths circulate, but does the writer have any evidence of truth behind them? If so, she doesn't share it. Finally, science, as the modern validator of ideas, is often appealed to -- once again with no more attribution than "the geologists tell us". This in itself might not be objectionable (although certainly intellectually slipshod) were it not for the fact that the author clearly doesn't know what she's talking about on such matters as polarization, matter and energy, gravitation and magnetism. Perhaps this attempt at validation will help with the book's target audience, but for me, I'd rather treat magick as a different world view than mix it with meaningless and false pseudoscience.

One last note: there is an appendix on AIDS which appears to recommend ignoring "safe sex" warnings and going with one's inner feelings, which seems somewhat irresponsible to me. (209 pp. trade paperback)

Alex Douglas, CLEM (\$12/3 issues, Postal Money order to "Alex Douglas - CLEM", from PO Box 86010, N. Vancouver, BC V7L 4J5, CANADA): This is sort of a periodical, but as what I hold here is the September 1986 update to the April 1986 update to the Fall 1984 issue I feel safer putting it back here. It's more of a reference work than a magazine anyhow.

CLEM stands for Contact List of Electronic

...Alex has independently developed a format quite close to that of FACTSHEET FIVE, and applied it in a more specialized area, just as his title suggests. In addition to reviewing music, Alex also lists publications, radio stations, and organizations that deal with electronic music. He started off with a few Tangerine Dream recordings and now has thousands of cassettes overflowing his house. CLEM is valuable precisely because it is a contact list, rather than just a review sheet; people actively involved in the indie music scene are listed even if they don't have anything out yet. Radio stations are listed and described, and so on. I don't expect that anyone else knows as much about cassette networking (except perhaps for Robin James from CASSETTE MYTHOS), but if you want to know anything, this work is a good place to start. Future issues are planned on an "as time allows" basis. For \$6 you can probably get just a copy of this issue without any updates, but I'd recommend that you spend the extra money to get on the mailing list if you're at all intrigued. (90 pp. reduced 8 1/2 x 11)

Yael Dragwyla, THE BOOK OF THE OUTLAW (\$5 from Atomic Hermetic Productions, PO Box 1548, Goleta, CA 93116-1548): A few decades ago Aleister Crowley took dictation from a being calling himself Aiwass, and the result was THE BOOK OF THE LAW, proclaiming a New Aeon upon this earth. Well, now some other cosmic refugee has gotten into the act, with the result that we have a proclamation of the Aeon of G'Broag'fran. If you don't get this, soon you won't be able to tell the players without a Skorkard.

Just in case you haven't figured it out by now, this is a SubGenial pastiche of one of Uncle Aleister's wackier moments. Being from the Church of the SubG, it has certain, er, torrid features not found in the original, but on the whole, it is just as confusing as THE BOOK OF THE LAW. And probably it has just about as much Truth in it (I leave the impressionable reader to decide how much that is).

Books like this have a major function in the Plans of the Muthah Church. They serve to separate out the "Bobbies", who only repeat the words without understanding the essences, from the hard-core chosen few lunatics who can grasp and enjoy things like OUTLAW. Get a six-pack of your favorite, smoke some 'Frop, get down, and read this. (48 pp. pamphlet)

Pat Fish (assembler), THE BIG GOLDEN BOOK OF FLASH (\$40 from PO Box 777, Santa Barbara, CA 93102): This is #77 in the Commonpress mail art series, sort of a rotating editorship apa for art. The assembler bears all expenses and sends finished copies to the contributors (hundreds of them in this case, from all over the world) and then hopefully sells enough to avoid going bankrupt. This is a beautiful work, and I hope it recoups its costs.

But what is it, you ask. Well, in this usage, flash are "drawings which tattoo artists and postal artists from around the world have created as sample ideas for tattoos". Some of the mail artists obviously just sent more of their usual stuff, things which I can't imagine as tattoos because they're not designed for the medium. Others sent paradoxical or self-referential stuff: "This is a tattoo", for example. But the vast majority of the things reproduced here could indeed be laid down using skin as canvas, and would work.

Traditional motifs predominate, although many changes are rung upon them. There are lots of skulls, for example. Two of them I like are by Billy Haddock (flanked with a pair of birds, it's labelled "Born to Raise Chickens") and Nick Cartwright (A futuristic grinning metal version). There are also plenty of pretty girls, sea flotsam and jetsam, barbed wire, dragons and so on. But a playful spirit

runs all through this work, with some of the designs (even those from the pros) seeming a lot more fun than the average tattoo.

Pat says, "Both correspondence art and tattooing are renegade art forms. They involve creating the best possible work of art and then letting go of it." In this case, though, the works let go have come back with interest to their creators, and other artists could benefit from the resulting fertilization as well. I suspect this publication will inject some new themes into mail art, and produce some interesting tattoos to boot. (158 pp. 8 1/2 x 11 spiral bound with some photos)

Hugh Fox, PAPA FUNK (from Brian Clark, 5018 Bayard St., San Diego, CA 92109): An excerpt from a novel in progress. About all I can say is that I don't plan on reading the entire novel, but if he's planning on looking for a legitimate publisher, I won't have to. Papa Funk is this dandy (in fact, nearly a transvestite), living with two younger women. The story line concerns the pregnancy and delivery of one of them, interspersed with a fair amount of sex. The writing is self-consciously avant-garde. Avoid this. (24 pp. chapbook)

Janet Fox (ed.), FROGS CROAK AT MIDNIGHT (\$1 from 519 Ellinwood, Osage City, KS 66523): Janet runs SCAVENGERS NEWSLETTER, which deals with small press markets for oddball literature. A while back she decided to run the Killer Frog contest, a short story competition designed to find horror stories so bad that they were funny. The pick of the crop -- 6 out of 46 entries -- are reprinted here.

Frogs do not in fact play a major part in most of the stories -- only Kathleen Jurgens' "Do Not Fold, Spindle or Mutilate" features a giant amphibian as the villain. Other Evils in this anthology include a rabbit, an omelet (in the story I liked the best, Cheryl Curry Sayre and L. Dean James' "The Omelet"), a suppository, a snapping turtle, and Santa Claus (in G.N. Gabbard's Lovecraftian pastiche, "The Call of Santa Claus"). These stories are not uniformly bad, but they do share a number of features with the slushpile stuff that unfortunately gets published all too often in the small press: heaps of cliches, strangely accented narrators, eldritch horrors that are asserted rather than felt. All in all, it's a very funny collection, and I hope Janet runs another contest to find bad science fiction. The results would be incredible. (32 pp. booklet)

Eckhard Gerdes, PROJECTIONS (\$5 from No Press, 826 W. Belmont #3F, Chicago, IL 60657): This work lies somewhere on the borderland between poetry and dream, in an area that I seldom enter without chemical aid (indeed, I was tempted to reread this at once while under the influence of some suitable substance, but the pressures of writing other reviews dissuaded me). Gerdes' writing is not linear and direct, but at the same time it is not as dense and difficult as that of, say, James Joyce. There is even a plot here, of sorts.

Inasmuch as it is the story of anything, PROJECTIONS concerns a struggle between the Inversionist and the Projectionist for the control of the world, or at least the reader's heart. The reader is drawn into the story by the second-person writing, and when this happens he's in for a roller coaster ride, as shifting images dash by right and left. The story line weaves in and out and is tough to hang on to, leading the faint of heart to shake their heads and give up. But those who persevere will find this an interesting dip into someone else's subconscious. (41 pp. chapbook with a nifty color xerox cover)

Emma Goldman, MOTHER EARTH Nov. 1907 (\$2 from The Match, PO Box 3488, Tucson, AZ 85722): This is the

first of what I hope will be a long "Historic Reprints Series". As Match editor Fred Woodworth correctly points out, most modern anarchists have never even seen a copy of the original MOTHER EARTH, let alone read one -- despite which Emma Goldman is still revered in the anti-authoritarian movement today. Now, with this meticulous reproduction of the original, we have our chance to correct the oversight.

So how does MOTHER EARTH stand up after 80 years? Well, things haven't changed much. There's a new Anarchist International trying to organize things; there's a remembrance of the Haymarket martyrs; there's strikes and unions being cruysed; there's some nearly subliminal arguing between various factions; and there are ads from all sorts of questionable folks who couldn't get a hearing in a more respectable journal. Emma's editorial voice sounds somewhat strained and self-conscious these days, but we must remember that "revolutionary proletariat" was not yet a laughing stock when she was writing. The passion shows through the outdated language, and the editorial matter is the gem of the whole publication. (64 pp. perfect bound pamphlet) *****

Melvin Gorham, HOW TO DEAL WITH THE FORCE UNDERLYING MASS WARFARE (\$1 from Sovereign Press, 326 Harris Rd., Rochester, WA 98579): Let's get one thing straight up front: Sovereign Press do not seem to be nice people. Although they try to camouflage much of their basic ideology in this pamphlet, the praise of the Aryan culture as the only one not devoted to breeding pliable masses (which, incidentally, are the cause of mass warfare) indicates that their opinions would probably be more acceptable to the Klan than to most of my readers. Aside from that, though, what's this all about?

Basically, Gorham sets forth the platform of the Individual Sovereignty Society, which is dedicated to restoring the principles behind the US Constitution and getting rid of the conspiracy that's hamstringing the US government. They propose to do this by forming a large pressure group and dictating a series of Constitutional amendments to the president and Congress. In view of their stated intolerance for socialists, communists, homosexuals, and anyone else who disagrees with them, I think it's a good thing that they haven't a ghost of a chance. I would outline their position, but they've copyrighted this and won't let one quote parts so that their position won't be distorted. Well, fine. It won't be publicized either. (24 pp. pamphlet) *****

Henry Charles Haupt, GET OUT OF MY MIND (see below for ordering): Mind Control seems to be one of the archetypical topics of our current culture. There are a fair number of people out there who feel, for one reason or another, that they are being attacked, and blame this on the authorities or some other sinister group.

This brief pamphlet is from one such unfortunate, and contains what might fairly be called ravings: "The sound simulation information is controlled information in a closed totalitarian system" is one such. It was handed to a correspondent of mine on the street in California, but I don't think the rest of you can hope for the same. However, for \$1.25, I'll send you a copy of this along with Martti Koski's MY LIFE DEPENDS ON YOU!, a much more literate, 12-page pamphlet on the same topic [see FF18]. (4 pp. pamphlet) *****

Ron Hayley, TERRORISM AND THE IDEOLOGY OF 'MORAL SUPERIORITY' (75¢ from Emma Goldman Resource Group, PO Box 5811, Stn. A, Toronto, ONT M5W 1P2 CANADA): A short pamphlet written around a couple of newspaper articles. One provides a definition of terrorism as "the tactic of using innocent people as tools to force others to change their policies". By this definition, of course, Reagan fits as well

as or better than any homeland-hopeful Palestinian. Ron Hayley goes on to present a few thoughts on why the terrorism scare is such huge news these days, and then we get treated to an article by George Woodcock defending anarchists against the slur of having invented terrorism. (8 pp. 8 1/2 x 11) *****

John Held, Jr., INTERNATIONAL ARTIST COOPERATION: MAIL ART SHOWS, 1970-1985 (\$5.50 from Dallas Public Library, Mail Art Catalog, c/o System Support Services, 1515 Young St., Dallas, TX 75201): Trying to present a complete picture of the mail art universe reminds me of the nineteenth-century dream of predicting the future of the whole universe by cataloguing the location of each and every particle in it at some instant. It's a foolhardy and impossible project. Nevertheless, John Held has made a valiant attempt, and while no doubt incomplete, this compendium has a lot of information between its covers.

The heart of this book is a listing of 1,338 mail art shows that took place between 1970 (tagged as the founding of the movement) and 1985 (publication of this book). For each one, John has tried to determine the theme, organizer, place, number of participants, and resultant documentation. Many of these slots are open for many of the shows, but even so it's an awesome attempt.

Of more interest to most readers will be the appendices. The first lists the sources which were used to compile the listings before them. The second provides a quick tour of mail art history by means of the labels used to identify posters and such in a Dallas Library exhibit about mail art. This makes fascinating reading for anyone who'd like to know where all this stuff came from. Finally, there are addresses given for about 250 mail artists from 26 countries. (145 pp. perfect bound) *****

The Justice Advocate, LIBRARY FOR SCHOLARS #860815 (\$5 from PO Box 3125, Denver, CO 80201): This is a good introduction to some of the concerns of the Constitutionalists (or, as the author calls them, the Realists). Much of this is a series of rapid-fire columns bringing up problems which the naive crusader may never have realized exist in the fight against government. How badly can payroll records hurt you? Are all judges legitimate? Can you get a subpoena even if the prosecutor doesn't want you to? What happens if you don't assert your rights properly? Is it worth buying a concealable tape recorder?

In the space available, full answers are not provided. However, the last couple of pages here are a complete catalogue of the other offerings of the Justice Advocate, from position papers to tape recordings to ready-to-file legal briefs. If you're thinking about fighting an income tax indictment, a home schooling case, or even a traffic ticket on Constitutional grounds, look into this stuff. The meaty pieces are expensive, but they'll cost you less than jail time will. Of course, nothing is guaranteed, particularly when one is bucking the system...but it makes sense to be as prepared as possible. (16 pp. 8 1/2 x 11) *****

Stephanie Klein, BIZARRO PROCESSED WORLD (56¢ SASE from Stephanie Klein, PO Box 7353, Menlo Park, CA 94025): This is a very evenhanded account of the great PW-vs-Everybody debate that has been raging in the antiauthoritarian press for the past few years. (some will see this evenhandedness as a fault). PW is, for those not familiar with the story, the magazine PROCESSED WORLD, which claims to be by and for dissident office workers. Its critics claim it is by doctrinaire communists, and intended to suck in innocent dupes. Allegations of impropriety, inconsistency and violence have dogged both sides. [Incidentally, you will not see PW reviewed in FF. This is not because I think they do

not deserve mentioning, but because they refuse to send me copies, apparently because I had the gall to ask questions about their project.] Stephanie was, as "Gidget Digit", an early contributor to PW. Thus she is in a position to tell the story of PW operations from the inside out, and does so. The various debates and differences of position among the staff are clearly outlined (the differences with Stephanie herself are clearest, but the others can be discerned), and the arguments and debates that led to her expulsion and branding as a nonperson are analyzed. But she does not care to join the chorus of hyenas waiting to pick over PW's bones. Instead, she widens her critique to include both PW and its critics, and ultimately the entire milieu. She ends up pointing out that "It is all too easy to call for a critical reconsideration of all previous radical theory....The harder question to ask is: how can any (even the most "self-conscious") "critical activity" avoid the pitfalls of activism, militancy, opaqueness, and "institutionalization" that PW has fallen prey to?" Stephanie offers hope rather than answers, but at least the hard questions are on the table. (32 pp. booklet)

Jim Lippard, FUNDAMENTALISM IS NONSENSE (\$3 from PO Box 37052, Phoenix, AZ 85069): The subtitle here is "Some Problems with Christian Fundamentalism, Christianity, and Theism in General" -- an ambitious undertaking, to be sure. With such a broad aim, one might expect the quality to be a bit uneven, and one would be right.

Jim's pamphlet is best as a handy recounting of contradictions and absurdities in the Bible -- the two accounts of Genesis, the varying number of charioteers (2 Sam 10:18 vs. 1 Chron 19:18) and so on. It's at its worst as a discussion of arguments for and against the existence of God (any god) -- 4 pages is not an adequate summary of a subject that has generated so much discussion over the centuries, David Hume notwithstanding). In between comes the section on "The Claims of Christianity", which treats such diverse topics as the Shroud of Turin and the authorship of the Gospels.

This pamphlet is probably not going to change any minds -- indeed, it's not likely to be read all the way through by any committed Christian, but will serve mostly as preaching to the converted. Those who will find it most useful will be those argumentative atheists seeking the support of his extensive bibliography and no-nonsense approach to the subject. (48 pp. pamphlet)

Stuart McBirnie, DR MCBIRNIE'S "PUB PAK" (\$5 from United Community Churches of America, PO Box 90, Glendale, CA 91209): This guy is a seriously wedged Christian conservative who has written about 800 pamphlets to give the Truth to his followers. This particular packet contains:

WILL AMERICA'S NEW MONEY DEVALUE YOUR DOLLARS? The usual scare stories about new currency, recall and devaluation of the old currency, one world currency, the Mark of the Beast and all that. Now outdated by the Treasury announcements of what the new currency is actually going to look like.

DID THE SOVIETS SABOTAGE CHALLENGER? Makes much of the series of accidents that have hit America's space program recently in light of its past "incredible success". I suppose he's forgotten Apollo 1, 6, 13 and 17.

IS JUDAS ALIVE AND WELL IN CHURCHES TODAY? I take it that that's a rhetorical question, as this is an indictment of Liberation Theology and the Sanctuary Movement. Did you know that there are still people who seriously use "communist front" to describe the peace movement?

10 URGENT PREDICTIONS ABOUT AIDS. The main purpose of predictions are an afterthought. The main purpose of this one is to complain that AIDS research &

prevention are being straightjacketed by namby-pamby concern for the rights of homosexuals. He apparently got worried when cases started turning up in the straight population.

HOW YOUR CONGRESSMAN REALLY VOTED! One of those scorecards that gives Jesse Helms 100 and Teddy Kennedy 0.

SATANISM & WITCHCRAFT: EVIL FORCES ON THE MARCH! A truly venomous and ill-informed publications, lumping together Anton LaVay, Wicca, Dungeons and Dragons, legends started by the Inquisition and a lot of just plain crap. If Satanism was as pervasive and powerful as he claims, this jerk would already be dead. (6 single-sheet slick pamphlets)

Movement of the Libertarian Left, INTRODUCTORY PAMPHLETS (\$1 from PO Box 1748, Long Beach, CA 90801-1748): The MLL is a group of libertarian anarchists that are trying to change society through purely market, non-coercive means. They've had their ups and downs since founding and are still, I think, fairly small. This year they're re-issuing their various issue-related pamphlets; here's the ones that are out so far.

#1, INTRODUCING THE MLL, gives the basic pitch for libertarianism and, more specifically, for their own brand of it.

#2, TAX IS THEFT!, argues a hard-line, don't pay any taxes position. The MLL claims to have proven methods of getting you out from under the state's thumb. They don't offer any track record, though.

#4, THE NUCLEAR QUESTION, attempts to come to a synthetic understanding of the pro- and anti-nuclear positions. The "solution" offered is to allow the building of nuke plants only if they're shown to be safe or relocated to places where they're harmless, like outer space. Somehow, though, I can't believe that you'll find anti-nuclear activists agreeing to that line.

#8, PUBLIC CHILD ABUSE, condemns the current educational system and offers the services of the MLL to defend home educators. Last I heard, the home educators were doing all right for themselves, and most of them had no use at all for anarchists.

It's a decent series, but I don't expect this sort of thing to convert the average Joe. Six more pamphlets are planned, and the buck should get you copies of most of them. (4 single-sheet pamphlets)

Spider Rainbow, CONTROL SYSTEMS AND SOCIAL CHANGE (Fourth World Press, 819 Peacock Plaza #609, Key West, FL 33040): Spider aptly sums up his own work in one of the essays here: "The present writer admits to a somewhat fatalistic cynicism, a certain exhaustion and exasperation, not only with the lack of impact, but with the anarchists or purported anarchists themselves." Apparently he was inspired by the Haymarket '86 gathering to collect and revise these various critiques of the movement, most of which had been published elsewhere. The black & red anarchists (the oldest faction), the black & green anarchists (new eco-anarchists and their ilk), the nihilists (SubGenii, Discordians and others of our ilk), the libertarians and the apologists for the Sandanista regime all come in for their share of scorn.

The critiques are couched in a more sorrow than anger tone, but in the end they leave little room for hope. Spider finds the anarchist movement in this country today to be confused and awash in a sea of social opinion going the other way. He seems to be saying that it's all so futile that we might as well give up. Well, maybe so, but that doesn't mean that we will. There are insights here, but in the absence of any suggestions, why bother criticizing? (36 pp. booklet).

Paul Reynolds, THE COLLECTED EDITION OF THE NYTEBYRD NEWSLETTER AND THE ZOO LOO MOON (\$4 from PO Box 1751, San Francisco, CA 94101): This one is

interesting as a bit of history from the last gasp of the sixties. Published from 1979 to 1983, these one and two sheet newsletters document the activities (apparently both real and fictional) of a couple of granfalloon folk out in Silver Spring, Maryland and environs.

NYTEBYRD started off concerned with moviemaking, drugs, selling cars to buy an airplane, and other hippie concerns, as well as gossip about various members of the "Nytebyrd Nation". When the head Byrd was overthrown, the zine was renamed to become ZOO LOO MOON, with much the same content except for an increasing amount of racist, sexist and just plain disgusting gutter humor. (Meanwhile, Paul was gearing up to produce the anarchist BLACK RAG, but that's another story).

There's some interesting stuff here and a lot that's just plain incomprehensible. In retrospect, it shows both how unfree parts of "the movement" were at the time, as well as how much fun they were having being assholes. But there are also some bits of libertarian humor and other underground stuff that can still amuse. (84 pp. 8 1/2 x 11)

Arthur Robinson & Gary North, FIGHTING CHANCE: TEN FEET TO SURVIVAL (\$5.95 from Oregon Institute of Science & Medicine, PO Box 1279, Cave Junction, OR 97523): The ten feet mentioned here are straight down, and at the bottom of them you will find a bomb shelter. The authors argue that both the Russians and the Chinese (and incidentally the Swiss) have massive and effective civil defense programs and that we ought to have them too. They urge immediate and continued pressure on the Congress until they budget the funds (about \$300 per person) to build shelters in America. These shelters would be about as comfortable as the average New York subway car, but they'd be a damned sight more comfortable than being fried to a crisp.

There's a lot here to quibble with, but I don't believe I'll do so.* The basic idea -- that of civil defense -- is an interesting and important one, and it hasn't gotten the consideration it should in this country, where the debate seems to be endlessly polarized between dumping the nukes in the arctic ocean (or otherwise freezing them) and continuing the MAD strategy we currently live with. Perhaps the authors are wrong about nuclear winter, or perhaps they've mis-stated the costs of their shelters, or perhaps the Russians really aren't as superior militarily as they say. But all of these are details compared to the main questions: why is Civil Defense in this country so laughably inadequate, and should we do anything about it?

Unfortunately, the book's impact will be lessened for many by the conservative Christianity espoused by the authors as a reason for this country's greatness (though SubGenII may appreciate the Fightin' Jesus attitude that comes through). Coming as it does from a fringe religious publisher, this book probably won't get a hearing, fair or otherwise -- which is a shame. It's too bad the "alternative" press isn't more willing to entertain ideas from such sources.

[*Well, I can't resist one quibble. Robinson and North claim that two weeks would be plenty of time for the fallout to decay to safe levels. If I were the Soviets, and I were as hellbent on killing the Americans as these authors think, I'd save some bombs for two weeks later, just to give the population centers a second dusting. But this is a tactical consideration, and does not deserve debate before the strategic question of whether to build shelters in the first place.] (289 pp. paperback)

Jack Saunders, EVIL GENIUS (\$5 from Mixed Breed, PO Box 42, Delray Beach, FL 33444): Those who remember my previous reviews of Jack's work [FF18, FF19] may be surprised to hear that I think this is

a half-decent book. To be precise, the middle of the book is the good part, flanked on either end by more of the same horseshit that he's been shoveling out all along.

For those of you who came in late, the JS brand of horseshit consists of pissing and moaning that one is being deliberately ignored by the publishing establishment, despite one's resemblance to (pick one) Hemingway, Kerouac, Melville or Thoreau. Throw in some stuff about how much self-publishing costs, some of your correspondence, and a snapping turtle or two and you could write a Jack Saunders book yourself. Or at least you could up until the central parts of EVIL GENIUS.

In the midst of the usual nonsense, Jack makes another stab at his autobiography, and it's interesting stuff. He reminisces well. The things he writes about may be old hat to him, but not to those of us who were born twenty years later. Join the Air Force to avoid the draft? Live off a gas credit card? Say what?

The only problem is that once Jack gets up to his job with IBM (which he quit to concentrate on his writing) the thoughtful style goes out the door and the same old obscurities come in. But if you skip all the pages bearing the names of famous writers, this is a decent book. If he'd put all the autobiographical stuff together, and carry the project on through, I might even buy a copy. Well, there's hope for the future. This is the last book of MEGALITH, the massive series of unpublished novels of pissing and moaning, and with the next book he starts OPEN ROAD, intended to be a new direction. Let's hope so. (278 pp. paperback)

The Seeker, THE SEEKER'S CREED (Everyman's Inc., PO Box 23, Marion, SC 29571): The correspondent who sent this to me claims that it's free. I dunno, as I didn't get it straight from the horse's anatomy. I certainly wouldn't risk much more than a stamp for a copy myself.

This could stand as sort of a textbook case of unbridled New Age speculation. The author says in his preface "It is meant to be and it is a group of natural laws that are true and work. It is scientific -- if you will." Well, I won't. Here's a sampling of his alleged natural laws:

"I believe that if you do the thing you will have the power."

"I believe that clear, forceful, directed, pure thought will yield energy."

"I believe that you attract that which has the same or nearly same vibration."

"I believe that everything in the universe moves by a repeated impulse."

Speaking for myself, I believe that none of this bears the faintest relation to science. Next, please. (22 pp. 8 1/2 x 11)

SRAF, THE ANARCHIST SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM OF CRIME (\$1 from PO Box 1751, San Francisco, CA 94101): While I wasn't paying attention the folks at the Social Revolutionary Anarchist Federation got their act together enough to get out this "SRAF New Directions Series Pamphlet". It may be a republication of an older work, but that doesn't matter, as the problem is as large as ever.

"Crime is as natural to our kind of coercive society as cirrhosis of the liver is to an alcoholic", the writers assert, and so they call for a new kind of society to solve the problem. Besides the libertarian argument for eliminating victimless crime laws, the SRAFs insist that violent crime can be eliminated or vastly decreased by changing the way we bring up our children. This smacks of panacea, but it's certainly a step in the right direction. They also suggest nonviolent alternatives to prisons, and speculate on the effects of abundance in reducing crime.

While this pamphlet doesn't contain the

"solution" that its title speaks of. It does have some interesting ideas. If they can rise again to this level of discourse, SRAP members could find themselves in the midst of the anarchist community. (8 pp. pamphlet)

Alex Stella, A YOUNGER EARTH (\$8 from Delnotation-7 Press, PO Box 204, Susquehanna, PA 16847-0204): I have in the past reviewed some of Alex Stella's plays, but this is his first novel, advertised as a "novel of retribution and a race with death". A YOUNGER EARTH is a difficult book to describe; any given scene seems crystal clear and detailed, yet the whole is quite elusive and vague. Part of this stems from the fact that the novel is written as a series of vignettes, but part is, I think, an intentional bit of style on the part of the author.

The hero of this book, if hero there is, is Sal (we never know his last name), an investment counselor, ex-military spook, and vengeful Italian. A cast of other exotic players wanders through Sal's pursuit of a couple of big cheeses in politics and the underworld, but rarely appear onstage long enough for us to get to know them well. The plot is finely convoluted in the manner of a Ludlum, but the constant shifting of scene makes it almost impossible to even guess what will happen next. In fact, this book is best read, not as a story, but as a piece of literary craftsmanship. Stella has a decided way with words, and although his prose sometimes loses itself in a slurry of obscure adjectives and drawn-out similes, he displays overall a very fine ear and eye for the interactions of people. Even if you don't bother to follow the plot, A YOUNGER EARTH is a rewarding experience in vicarious people-watching. (217 pp. trade paperback)

John Strausbaugh, FLYING FISH (\$7.50 from Dolphin-Moon, PO Box 22262, Baltimore, MD 21203): A complex, nearly Kafkaesque multi-media collection. Most of the media are short stories of one sort or another, but there is also a poem (unfinished), the text for a performance art piece, and a flexidisc with John reading (enacting?) part of the story "Another Fine Mess", with ominous tribal music in the background.

It's an entertaining anthology, and an artistic one. John starts with a poem out of one of his dreams, segues into an essay about why writing from dreams isn't all that great an idea, goes on into other stories and then ties the whole package together with a story that may or may not be a dream, just when the reader is starting to be sure that that particular topic will not raise its ugly head again. Of the pieces in the middle, I especially enjoyed both the flexi and story of "Another Fine Mess", as well as the title story, "Flying Fish". The latter is a trip through several realms of life, separated by water and tragedy. Or something like that.

Most of these stories are sort of surreal, but not so surreal as to completely lack plot. John's style keeps one hooked with lightning changes of phrase and wonderful imagery, adding to without burying the human feelings that are the storyteller's grist. And Dolphin-Moon makes a lovely production of the whole thing. All in all, a nice addition to the small press world. (76 pp. trade paperback)

Jim Stumm, DIRECTORY OF LIBERTARIAN PERIODICALS (\$3 from PO Box 29, Hiler Branch, Buffalo, NY 14223): Jim publishes this one every once in a while -- this is the November 1986 edition. It contains the names, addresses, frequency, prices and brief descriptions of about 150 libertarian periodicals. The field is interpreted pretty loosely; everyone from state LP newsletters to the FEE to the Dandelion (individualist anarchist) is here. Much

more detailed coverage of a particular subfield than I could ever offer. (8 pp. 8 1/2 x 11)

Mycall Sunanda, GEODESEE ENERGY GAMES (\$2 from Oness Press, PO Box 75, Calpella, CA 95418): This has the manic layout typical of Mycall's books, but as the subject is more down to earth than some, I find it a lot more readable. The subject? Play, of course: how to encourage it among your children, how to participate in it yourself.

Mycall has one of those minds that is bursting with ideas, and he tends to skip over things quickly as there's always the next page beckoning. This leads to some ideas being only sketched or presented incompletely. For example, there are rules given for a cooperative geometrical game, but the illustrations are too small to make sense of -- the reader will have to invent half of the game himself. In fact, that's one major use of this book: as a selection of ideas that can be recombined into other games.

The other major use is bibliographical, as Mycall has shamelessly cut up selections of ideas on where to look for recreational resources from a bunch of other publications. I suspect that if he got a bit more discipline into his writing, Mycall could write books like Bucky Fuller's. Meanwhile, he'll probably continue churning out these sketches for finished books. (60 pp. digest-sized)

Kerry W. Thornley, THE DREADLOCK RECOLLECTIONS (\$5 from 2981 Lookout, Atlanta, GA 30305): This might be FOLK-WRITE, Book 4; it's hard to tell with the envelopes full of stuff that I get from Kerry. Anyhow, if you send him \$5 and ask for a copy of the assassination stuff, you ought to get a copy.

This is Kerry's remembrances of some strange events that took place in New Orleans in the summer of 1963. Some time before that he had been in the Marines with Lee Harvey Oswald, and he remains convinced to this day that Lee was innocent of the Kennedy assassination. Indeed, he even knew one of the real conspirators, a strange neo-Nazi known as Brother-In-Law. This book contains an account of Kerry's conversations with Brother-In-Law.

It's tough to know what to make of all this. Certainly some of Kerry's interpretations set one's bullshit detector off, and it doesn't help any that he admits his memory of this stuff was suppressed for years. On the other hand, some of it rings true. Perhaps the most reasonable interpretation is that Kerry was one of the numerous false trails set up before the Kennedy assassination by the conspirators, and one that they did not have to activate. Or perhaps he's merely crazy -- but then, so are a lot of JFK assassination buffs. I figure that we'll never sift out the truth by now (nearly a quarter of a century later) so it's time to start looking for the most artistic explanations rather than the most reasonable ones. (30 pp. reduced 8 1/2 x 11)

Bebe Williams, INSTRUCTIONS FOR MEETING TIME TRAVELLERS (\$2 from 120 E. 1st St. #11, New York, NY 10009-7929): Just what the title says. The basic idea here is that one ought to invite the time traveller in, rather than trusting in blind chance. Documents are provided for those who wish to take a formal approach to this, complete with a space for notarization.

Unfortunately, though various obstacles to such a meeting are considered and solutions proposed, Williams is somewhat naive about the survival of papers, photographs and videotapes into the far future. At the very least, any document meant to survive ought to be on archival acid-free bond, and photographs ought to be encapsulated in non-reactive plastic. As for magnetic recordings...forget it. Even if the media survives the machine is likely to

be no longer extant.

As a final note, I'm pretty well skeptical about the possibility of time travel at all. Still, there's not much to lose, except perhaps a bit of your reputation, if you do decide to follow these instructions. (24 pp. 7" x 11")

BOOK NOTES:

We hear from publishers now and then, and a lot of them deserve to be called to our readers' attention. Unless otherwise indicated, you can get all of these catalogs for a nice letter of request.

* A DISTRIBUTION (39¢ SASE from 396 Seventh St. #2, Jersey City, NJ 07302): A voluntary collective that tries to keep anarchist thought circulating. They don't take any pay for their efforts, and provide a wide selection -- everything from Adamic to Ziesing, including classics as well as things I've never heard of. Good people, decent prices.

* CATO INSTITUTE (224 Second St. SE, Washington, DC 20003): A sort of conservative Libertarian think tank. Most of these books seem to be indictments of the present system rather than proposals for something new. Prices start around five bucks.

* CHRIS DRUMM BOOKS (PO Box 445, Polk City, IA 50226): A purveyor of new and used SF & fantasy with a few low-end (under \$100) collectors' goodies but also an extensive list of paperbacks from \$1.50 on up. Also a publisher of original specialty booklets, some by well-knowns like Lafferty.

* FOUNDATION FOR ECONOMIC EDUCATION (30 S. Broadway, Irvington-on-Hudson, NY 10533): The folks who publish THE FREEMAN also carry a lot of books with the same reasonable, laid-back approach to Libertarian theory. The general message is that the market can handle it. \$5 and up.

* BEN FRANKLIN BOOKSELLERS (27 S. King St., Leesburg, VA 22075): A retailer of classics and historical reprints. Everything from the Penguin edition of TWO LIVES OF CHARLEMAGNE to \$70 German & Latin reprints of Kepler's works.

* THE HIMALAYAN PUBLISHERS (RR1, Box 405, Honesdale, PA 18431): The people who bring us HIMALAYAN NEWS. Eastern philosophy from Swami Rama and his fellows. From \$5 introductions to \$100 deluxe editions with the good Swami's autograph.

* MICHAEL A. HOFFMAN II (PO Box 730, Murrieta, CA 92362): This guy mostly offers video and audio tapes but there are books as well. It's all devoted to showing that there was no holocaust and those who claim there was are unfairly persecuting the doubters. You can get the basics for three bucks or a video of the Zundel trial for fifty.

* INTERNATIONAL PUBLICATIONS (SASE from PO Box 29193, Indianapolis, IN 46229): Purveyors of pamphlets like SUPER FREE THINGS DIRECTORY, US GOVERNMENT SURPLUS DIRECTORY and HOW TO GET OUT OF DEBT AND LIVE LIKE A MILLIONAIRE. Some are as little as \$1 but on the other hand no page counts are listed. Doesn't look real reputable.

* LAISSEZ FAIRE BOOKS (532 Broadway, 7th Fl., New York, NY 10012-3956): The 32-page catalog carries a cover price of \$3 but I didn't pay for it. THE most exhaustive catalog of libertarian books known to man, heavy on folks like Ayn Rand and Ludwig von Mises and anyone they claim as an intellectual forebear. If it's not here, it's probably not libertarian. Standard book prices.

* LIBERTY TREE (1142 W. Indian Schol Rd., Phoenix, AZ 85013): Another \$3 item that came to me as junk mail. Slick libertarian marketing that is trying to cash in on the Statue of Liberty craze and offers boardgames and T-shirts as well as books. Laissez Faire's prices are just as good, their selection is better, and their marketing is less obnoxious.

* McCLINTOCK BOOKS (50¢ from PO Box 3530,

Warren, OH 44485): For the collector of mystery, fantasy, or science fiction. Sure, there are some books here for \$7.50, but there are a lot more for \$65 (1st edition of DOCTOR DOOLITTLE'S CARAVAN) or even \$7500 (The corrected manuscript of TO YOUR SCATTERED BODIES GO). A pleasant chatty style and worth getting just to gawk.

* NINE WORLDS PUBLISHING (PO Box 1792, Breckenridge, TX 76024): The publishing arm of the Asatru Free Assembly, we also do RUNESTONE. Books for those interested in the Norse religion and associated subjects. Not exceptionally cheap (though some are under \$10), but hard to find stuff.

* THE NOONTIDE PRESS (PO Box 1248, Torrance, CA 90505): People trying to give the other side of the "pap and lies which the media forcefeed our nation". The truth behind communist ideology, the genocide treaty, and assorted similar subjects. \$3.75 and up.

* PEPPER & STERN RARE BOOKS (PO Box 2711, Santa Barbara, CA 93120): I'm looking at List O, which is for "American & English literature, Mystery & Detective Fiction, Rare Cinema Material" and implies that they must have at least 15 more lists and one hell of a stock. I would say "rare" is the right word; I see few things under \$100 and \$25 is about the lowest. But where else would one find an autographed copy of HUCKLEBERRY FINN (\$5000) or an autographed copy of Charles Dickens' MASTER HUMPHREY'S CLOCK (\$12,500)?

* RESEARCH UNLIMITED (PO Box 448, Fremont, NE 68025): All sorts of books on the old west, lost mines, gold hunting, the Civil War and so on. ALSO sell treasure hunting supplies like gold pans and sluices.

* MARK ZIESING BOOKS (PO Box 806, Willimantic, CT 06226): Poor Mark, always last on my list. But he's the first one I turn to when I need to order some SF. Lots and lots of SF and fantasy books for sale, mostly new stuff, with Mark's notes on what is and isn't worth reading. Friendlier than any other book catalog I know. Mark also publishes occasional special editions by people like Gene Wolfe and Michael Bishop.

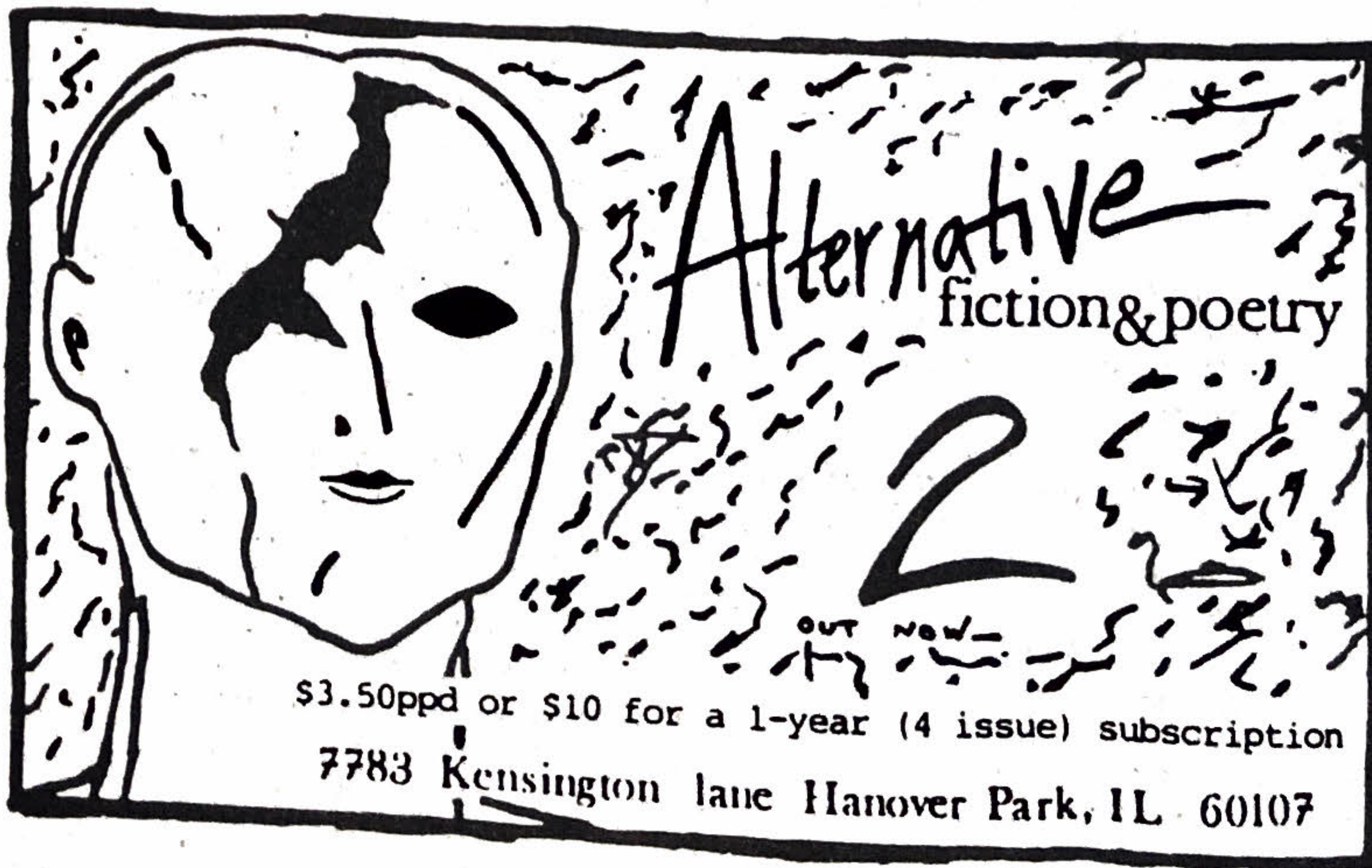
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MUSIC



Here we go again with reviews of the music that comes sneaking into the FACTSHEET FIVE offices under cover of darkness. Reviews are as always signed to indicate whether they are by Carol Schutzbank (CS), Shane Williams (SW) or myself (MG).

We're still behind on these reviews but things are getting better. I hope to reduce the backlog from around 100 records and tapes to under fifty this time. We'll be caught up by the end of the year, I hope.

Two things to remember:

- 1) I can only list a price if you put it somewhere on the record or the accompanying promo material.
- 2) Shane is in Leavenworth and you can't send music straight to him. Send stuff to me and I'll try to pass it along. Someday we'll Explain All about this.

Whenever I listen to commercial radio (which is fairly often -- having not yet strung an antenna atop this house, the college stations are somewhat fuzzy -- I am struck by how much more there is to making it in the music business besides talent. The best of what's listed below is light-years ahead of most of what gets heavy airplay these days. (We won't say anything about the worst of what's below). It's not fair that these bands should have to struggle while some of the commercial crap on the air these days makes it big. Do your part for the starving independents. Check out some of these records, even if it requires using up a few stamps because your local record mogul doesn't stock them. Let's not let these reviews be in vain.

8 EYED SPY, "Live" (\$9.25 from ROIR, 611 Broadway #214, New York, NY 10012): Lydia Lunch in one of her many, many fine moments actually covering a Willie Dixon song (or is it a Muddy Waters song?) "Biddy Wah Biddy" and Creedence Clearwater's "Run Through the Jungle". In other words, this is Lydia at her most straightforward rock and roll. Bacon Colostomy in the liner notes calls it American Sex Voodoo and recommends that it be listened to in bed for sexual purposes in order to recreate the live ambience. Now if only one could be in bed with Lydia that would be the proper ambience! As usual with these ROIR gems it's a must have -- for the record though I think I like her west coast 13:13 even better but hey, they don't have an ROIR tape

available. (T/SW)

AGITPOP, "Back at the Plain of Jars" (Community 3 Recordings, 1700 Lexington Ave., New York, NY 10029): Agitpop's "Feast of the Sunfish" was one of the first records we reviewed [see FF15] and I'm pleased to see that our endorsement was well-placed. Their style has evolved while maintaining its almost minimalist distinction. All of the instruments can be crisply heard in the clear production, and the best songs have a strong vocal line over hearty percussion with occasional guitar notes weaving in and out. From the elusive lyrics of "Five Day Forecast" ("Am I killing time, or is time killing me") to the extended instrumental wrap-up on "Snowdrift (Way Over 4 Feet)", this album provides an excellent listen. (LP/MG)

MIKE ALVAREZ, "The Night I Watched You Sleep" (Not Records/Tapes, PO Box 49734, Austin, TX 78765): Alvarez is the producer of the annual Woodstock Music Festival in Austin [see FF20], and now he's out on vinyl of his own. This record seems to be mainly a place to display his guitar skills in a couple of pretty standard rock numbers. The flip side, "Orphan Aged", has a sort of dreamy sound without being psychedelic, but it's still nothing to write home about. (45/MG)

A.P.P.L.E., "Neither Victims Nor Executioners" (\$3 from 25 Van Dam St., Brooklyn, NY 11222): This is the right way to do a socially meaningful tape. First you learn to play your instruments (in this case, mainline rock stuff with a nicely expressive female lead vocalist) and THEN you put in the meaningful lyrics. The result is music that you can enjoy for its own sake even if you don't want to bother with the politics. The lyrics range from innocuously liberal (a cover of "Blowing in the Wind") to hardcore anarchist: "Did you ever think of how sickening it is having to work just to live?/Is your life only worth a boss' salary?/If it's not have you ever questioned why it should be?/Life is worth so much more!". There's also a great indie music anthem as the final cut, titled "Fuck RCA (Do It Yourself)". These guys may not go far with the pink hair set, but anti-authoritarians will love 'em. The lyric book is available separately; send an SASE, I guess. (T/MG)

THE ARMS OF SOMEONE NEW, "Love, Power & Justice" (\$4 from Office Records, PO Box 2081, Stn. A, Champaign, IL 61820): The first time the listener hears The Arms of Someone New she will immediately want to slot them into the Joy Division/Bauhaus doom and gloom category and write them off as just another band with an affection for minor chords. But, as the cliché goes, once is not enough, and somewhere around the second or third listen subtle differences begin to become more apparent -- differences that establish the band as individuals in their own right and not just clones of those who have come before them. The vocals are somber and introspective, evocative of Ian Curtis but without his "doomed to hell" pessimistic aura. The music is moody and darkly melodious, but the melancholy is softer and the songs are prettier and less harsh than those of other genre bands. (T/CS)

BIG BLACK, "The Hammer Party" (Homestead Records, PO Box 570, Rockville Centre, NY 11571-0570): In case your last name is Ostrich and your head is no stranger to the Gobi Desert let me announce that Big Black is Steve Albini's band, Steve being a self-proclaimed asshole rock crit and one of my fave whipping boys. At any rate he makes some of the best exo-skeleton music around. This LP is a re-release of the first two BB EPs. "Lungs" was him all by his lonesome with maybe a little help programming the drum machine. "Bulldozer" had a

slightly different line-up, with NAKED RAYGUN's singer playing bass and the dude from URGE OVERKILL on real drums, which means two things: it's a collector's item overdue for reissue and this might just be the best BB release ever. The bottom line is that unless you want to be as square as Albini's Jarhead you want to own this record. Back when BULLDOZER first came out I only rated it very good. Maybe it's my love/hate relationship with Steve that has bumped it to essential but I don't think so. (LP/SW)

THE BLANKS, "Say Can You See" b/w "Where There's Smoke" (\$2.75 from Falsified Records, PO Box 1010, Birmingham, MI 48012): Like I just said, there's still decent political music being made, even if the Clash and all them guys sold out long ago. The Blanks have the unenviable spur to creativity of living in Detroit where the world's largest trash incinerator is supposed to be constructed soon despite citizen opposition, EPA miscalculations and yes, even a song. The song (flip side of this EP) is, like the rest of the band's repertoire, a bouncy little number, upbeat with a nice jangle of guitars. This is music to have out on a picnic with 200 vegetarians and no politicians in sight. (EP/MG)

THE BLUE DAISIES, "Wilt" (Iridescence, PO Box 3556, Culver City, CA 90230): This strikes me as a perfect soundtrack for a Luna Ticks comic, but for all you dopes who haven't been buying her stuff, that won't mean much. OK, imagine this: you're in a bar, it's filled with smoke, and there's a driving beat that rattles the glasses and makes your guts clench. Behind it come some vocals that lay bare the myths we live by. Energy, that's the story here, raw energy. The Blue Daisies must have been some trip live (alas, they're broken up now). Well on its way to being one of my all-time favorites is the ultimate track, "Beautiful Kid", a marrow-burning tour of the down side of the American Dream. Though their subjects and looks are punk, this is not as abrasive as most of the genre, although it's by no means elevator music. They know what they're doing and do it well. (LP/MG)

NELLIE BREWER, "Piano Stylings" (\$5 from White Knight Productions, PO Box 656, Wautoma, WI 54982): An hour's worth of unaccompanied piano ragtime recordings. Most of this is (I think) standards, although a few are originals. The recording quality is not all that hot, and the pianist hits a sour note now and then, but then, ragtime doesn't seem to demand the perfection of some other types of music. Or perhaps I just like to tap my feet. Anyhow, I wouldn't rate this as a must buy for anyone, unless you've been looking for ragtime and can't find any. Nellie has been playing it for decades, and the naturalness shows through even if the aging fingers aren't what they once were. (T/MG)

CASSETTEZINES

These audio works are part of larger series, sometimes including written components. With work from many artists, they are the direct equivalent of literary periodicals.

CASSETTE MYTHOS, "Gunshot" and "Wheels" (\$5 from Robin James, PO Box 2391, Olympia, WA 98507): One from the fertile studio of Robin James, who is trying to help nurture the budding "cassette culture". The tape consists of two half-hour radio programs featuring snippets of other home-recorded stuff. "Gunshots" includes Nisus Anal Furgler, Shonen Knife, Eugene Chadbourne and -- surprise! -- an interview with yours truly. If you ever wanted to know what I sound like, this is your big chance. The "Wheels" program includes material from 4 Track

Mind, WMFU, Fearless and Sediments. Robin is also looking for more people to answer the cassette interview questions -- write him for details. I was particularly pleased to find myself on the same side as the DIRTY HARRY sound collage. (T/MG)

TELLUS #14 (\$7 from Harvestworks Inc., 16 W. 22nd St. #902, New York, NY 10010): A bimonthly cassettezine that organizes each issue (each tape) around some basic theme. This time it's Just Intonation, which is "any tuning system in which all of the intervals can be represented by whole-number ratios, with a strong preference for simple ratios." I'm not trained enough to know what that means, but the result is that these pieces, although written in a variety of styles, sound just a bit alien -- like they came from Japan or somewhere, not from the moon. Of special note are James Tenney's "Septet for Electric Guitars", the classically-influenced "Tocatta for Violincello" by Ben Johnston, and David Doty's intriguing "Fake Greek Music".

CHRIST ON PARADE, "Isn't Life a Dream?" (\$2.25 from Mind Matter Records, PO Box 421304, San Francisco, CA 94142): Very good political thrash. Tight, clean but by no means overproduced or at all mersh. The biggest surprise here is that this record isn't on Pushead's label because I know the band has worked with him before. Instead they're on Mind Matter, a label up till now associated with an attitude that puts the music in the back seat and bombards one into nausea with their concern for womyn, anymils, etc. This time they were content to print the band's lyrics and put a sleeve on the record that couldn't help but signal the message here. Actually, the picture I'm looking at (Reagan shoving a flag up some fool's ass) is inside with the lyrics, but you get the point. Hey, this stuff is anti-parent, too. Tough, cause it rocks. (45/SW)

DEAD SILENCE "Stress" (\$5 from Dead Silence, PO Box 7206, Boulder, CO 80306): A heavy emphasis on all the topics that put this band and record squarely in the peace punk camp. One song, "Mad Scientist's Ball" even starts out with the old recited gnarly facts about animal torture, but even an apolitical asshole like me can appreciate this band. For instance when the guitarist starts opening up we get some of the best Greg Ginn influenced playing I've come across. This stuff is all hardcore tempos, not thrash but bouncing along at a nice clip. No metal here, just punk rock. This record is dedicated to a friend of the band's who committed suicide -- it seems an awful lot of records these days are mentioning suicide or car crash victims. The only conclusion I can draw from this is that in the 80s bands aren't as embarrassed about mentioning death on the liner notes as bands were in the 60s and 70s. On the UNCLEAN label, the same good guys behind Lepers, Anti-Scrunti Faction and the first NOTA release -- support 'em. (EP/SW)

DEATH OF SAMANTHA, "Laughing in the Face of a Dead Man" (Homestead Records, PO Box 570, Rockville Centre, NY 11571-0570): I wish I could remember who recently claimed that these guys were no better than a second-rate band. This gave me pause because it was the first totally dismissive reviews of them I had read. Well, I'd like to excommunicate whoever it was from the church of rock criticism because this is my pick disk of the issue. The cover of Zevon's "Werewolves of London" is cool, but the one that has got to be grokked is "Yellow Fever", with a chorus that sounds to me like "I'm so sick, sick, sick and satisfied". Hey, this song updates the STOOGES ethos

into the 80s possibly better than anyone. And then the final cut, "American Horoscope and the Bad Prescription" is as off-the-wall as anything the BEATLES ever came up with in their Magical Mystery Mindset, and has a great declamatory speech mid-song that reminds me a little of Albini's on the BULLDOZER EP where he starts ranting about everything that is really wrong with America today. (LP/SW)

!DOG!, demo tape (Bob Byte, 93 Avenue B, New York, NY 10009): I was prepared to like this tape after reading over the promo material and the lyrics sheet: "finely tuned to reach deep within the confines of your subconscious to reactivate the collective/cooperative drive that has been sublimated by a continuous bombardment of artificial stimuli manipulated to serve the needs of greedy capitalist predators" says the one, and the other is pretty well anti-politically correct. Alas, although the music is competent enough in a fast and loose punkish way, Angus MacDonald's booze & 'lude-laden vocal slurring makes me reach for the volume/control -- to turn things DOWN. Try me again with another lead vocalist, guys. (T/MG)

DOG AS MASTER, "Brash Pussy" (Sound of Pig Music, c/o Al Margolis, 28 Bellingham Ln., Great Neck, NY 11023): Music to make the fillings in your teeth ache. DAM put out a barrage of electronic and other sounds, often with more than one rhythm going at the same time, and the effect teeters on the edge of sensory overload. There are bits of static, noise, music and vocals all rolled up together here, as well as some found sounds. The vocals are shouted but mixed low, which makes the whole thing sound even louder. I'd love to replace the muzak in my local supermarket with this stuff. Not for the unsuspecting pop fan, but rather designed for the hardcore experimental music lover. (T/MG)

DREW, "New Traditions" (Corkwall Studios Ltd., 214 West Rd., Baltimore, MD 21221): Neat stuff! This is somewhere between rock and folk, with guitar lines as crisp as a new apple backed up by an unassuming drumbeat and helped along by strong vocals. The music is about people and places and feelings rather than issues and politics, and is mainly pretty relaxed. Take this lyric snippet from "Hiking": "In that solitude/I had such gratitude/for being alive". Even better, they sound like they mean it. (T/MG)

EXOTIC BIRDS, "L'Oiseau" (\$6.98 from After Hours Records, 300 Prospect Ave., Cleveland, OH 44115): I'm a bit suspicious of a band that has two guys sharing lead vocals but four sharing "programming" on the list of credits. Their sound is composed of sort of haunting vocals over a line that's heavy in percussion and synthesizer but light in guitars. The whole thing is produced to a pitch of plastic perfection. As dance club music, I can see it, but not for my home turntable. Give me something with a bit more bite. (EP/MG)

RHETT FORRESTER, "Gone With the Wind" (Shatter Records, 119 W. 57th St., New York, NY 10019): Rhett used to be the frontman for RIOT, but now he's out on his own (well, the other three musicians do get mentioned a bit), doing heavy metal-tinged rock and roll. With the exception of a truly horrendous cover of the Stones' "Live With Me", all of this was written in ten days, and the lyrics show it. The music on "Assume the Position" and "Boys Wanna Fight" is worth cranking up, but I wouldn't call this a standout album. A minor note: 6 out of 7 photos on the album cover are of Rhett, who is a bit of a leather-clad pretty boy. (LP/MG)

GOVERNMENT ISSUE, self-titled (Fountain of

Youth, PO Box 570, Rockville Centre, NY 11571-0570): Somehow it doesn't seem right to have a self-titled LP on a release that is edging towards a second digit. At any rate this is by no means the best GI LP -- the chops are here but the songs are weak. Well, not weak, but weaker than one would hope. One of the most interesting songs is the final "Last Forever" that sounds more like an entry in New York's art grunge core sweepstakes, though Stabb's vocal delivery isn't much different from his usual. At any rate it's certainly well worth having if you're a fan of the band as I am or if you like your punk rock mid-tempo so that you can understand the lyrics, though I'm not of the opinion that just because this is that slow it now becomes rock instead of punk. (LP/SW)

BOB HARRIS, "The Great Nostalgia" (Mastahna Records, 13906 Ventura Blvd. #257, Sherman Oaks, CA 91423): Bob Harris has Credentials, having worked behind both Warren Zevon and Frank Zappa. But don't imagine this is going to sound like Warren or Frank's album, as Bob also has a few ideas of his own, chiefly about music and relaxing. This is about two notches this side of being ambient music, just about right to work the kinks out after a long day at work. The main elements here are vocals, trumpet, and keyboards, and Bob plays 'em all, along with a batch of friends. Very laid back stuff, but not by any means boring. Only half of the cuts have words, but my favorite is the instrumental "Autumn in Nepal", featuring Steve Vai on electric sitar. Not for the punks in the audience, but those of you who find little music of interest here might want to check this one out. (LP/MG)

THE HATES, demo tape (\$6 from Christian Arnheiter, 4200 W. 34th Box 132, Houston, TX 77092): This tape is made up from the Hates' five EPs, which are also available on vinyl, but my advice is to try the cheaper version first. I thought the band was pretty ho-hum as I played through side A (the early EPs) -- just another bunch of irate Texan teens. Then I flipped it over, and discovered that on the last two, the production is improved, the music is improved, the singing has more tension in it, and the lyrics are worth listening to. There's a couple of years of band evolution encapsulated here and it's actually sort of fun to listen to it happen, culminating with numbers like "Society Crisis": "Mass production, self destruction/Synthetic, surrogated/Assimilated into a brand/Corporate corruption, fixed elections..." As an added bonus, my copy came with a copy of a b&w comic, THE HATES IN IRAN, showing these violent young punks taking care of the Ayatollah and his henchmen. (T/MG)

IDEALS, "The Poor Man's ZZ Top!!" (Matako Mazuri Records, PO Box 4084, Austin, TX 78765): Actually, although their sound is definitely Texas and definitely rock, there's a big difference between these guys and the folks with the long beards. The Ideals are a lot rawer and the power comes through. No overproduced studio stuff here. Instead there's good old music, with an almost country beat and lyrics that will make you do a double-take and scurry for the record sleeve. Check out "Big Bad Texas Millionaire": "I think I'll develop some land/A business park! Bordered by Oklahoma/Houston & the Rio Grande/With shoppin' malls on the first three floors..." The rest of this is in the same hilarious vein, with songs like "Political Science" and "Anti-bacterial Stomp". (EP/MG)

THE IRONICS, "Soup-to-Nuts" (\$5 from Camaraderie Music, PO Box 403, Kenmore Stn., Boston, MA 02215): The Ironics are a polyvocal group anchored by Leslie Sterling's expressive, quasi-Gospel singing, and featuring a jazzy background mixed with rock and a

bit of everything else. This four-song cassette is enough to showcase the band's talents while leaving the listener hungry for more. Of particular note are "Jack Webb", an ode to Dragnet, and "(Let's Move To) Ground Zero", a perky, bouncy song of pre-apocalyptic pessimism. This is party music for the cynical set. (T/MG)

JAD FAIR, "Best Wishes" (Iridescence, PO Box 3556, Culver City, CA 90230): Imagine yourself moving in a variety of speeds through a variety of surrealist dreamscapes. This is the type of music that would accompany you on your trip. It's not music so much as it is soundplay, and these are not songs so much as they are aural vignettes. The style is minimalist in its approach -- Fair takes simple patterns and repeats them over and over with variations, but the broad reach of his instrumental prowess offsets any dullness that might appear. Screeches, clangs, chugs, bangs and whooshes coexist in and around musical notes to provide an interesting exploration of musical intensities and rhythms. (LP/CS)

THE KINETICS, "Hey La La Lee" (Etiquette Records, 2442 Market St. #273, Seattle, WA 98107): The promo says "rough edge of mainstream rock" and for a while I thought they'd edged over entirely to another genre, with the marimba (well, probably another of them thar synthesizers, but if you can't see 'em, who cares?) imparting a decidedly reggae tone to the danceable title cut. The flip side, though ("Take a Train") has a, well, train-like beat and does get on back to the rock side of things. This quickie bodes well for their forthcoming LP. (45/MG)

KINGS OF WYOMING, self-titled (1700 Lexington Ave., New York, NY 10029): A release that is bound to prompt the listener to wonder whatever happened to the good ole days of Woodstock. Gentle pop with a semi-psychedelic folksy touch comparable more to the Byrds and bands of their ilk than to the latter day inheritors of the Byrds' label, REM. The light touch of the female voice, breathy and slightly off in the harmonies, hearkens to visions of flower children and sunny days. But for all its low key twangy touch, this is a release that swings. (T/CS)

JIMMY LEE, "Music to Sink Your Nose Into" (\$6 from X-Kurzhen Music, 2074 Jackson Ave., Memphis, TN 38112): More properly characterized as experimental than industrial. This isn't due to real innovations but because so many of the cuts seem like Jimmy discovered a sound he could make with his synth and called it a song. It's not quite that bad perhaps, but it's not the work of an accomplished player, and the most intense moments are just that, moments. But all is not lost here, because goofiness and a willingness to try to sing to this stuff relieve the boredom. The best cut, "Sa-Skata", has a buddy of Jimmy's breaking into the chorus of the Gary Glitter song that Joan Jett made famous, "Rock and Roll", and never failing to burst out laughing as he attempts to get through the words. I can't exactly recommend this tape but I can say that no portion of it makes me want to yank the headphones off my head on repeated listenings. But some of it is definitely ignorable. (T/SW)

LIVE SKULL, "Pusherman" (Homestead Records, PO Box 570, Rockville Centre, NY 11571-0570): Anyone that read my "Penned In" column last issue knows I'm looking for a band or bands to do benefit concerts for pro-drug legislation and referendums, and LIVE SKULL might be just the ones to get the ball rolling. Hey, what do I know, they're probably as anti-drug as everyone else is nowadays, but what a cool version of "Pusherman" (the song out of SUPERFLY for those who never caught the

Blaxploitation flicks of the 70s). At any rate when I first heard these guys I thought they were just OK and not holding much of a candle to other NY groups like SONIC YOUTH or SWANS. I'm not so sure now, these guys might be the equal of those groups or more by this point. Now I can't wait for the new HONEYMOON KILLERS record! (EP/SW)

MARZIDOVSEK, "Brutal/Minimal" (\$4 from X-Kurzhen Music, 2074 Jackson Ave., Memphis, TN 38112): Cassette networking in action. The folks who did this tape are "the first private independent non-profit cassettes production company in Yugoslavia", and their products are now available here thanks to X-Kurzhen. This is indeed brutal and minimal stuff, industrial noise that wanders around the edges of being music without quite getting there. This type of thing apparently has international appeal, and without the label you'd never know that this tape was from another country. The only problem with this universal language is that I don't know anyone who really understands it, although a lot of folks like it. Try some industrial for a little flavor of chainsaws in your morning coffee. (T/MG)

THE MCGUIRES, "Start Breathing" (Righteous Records, PO Box 6111, San Francisco, CA 94101): I can't make up my mind, so this is one of my two pick hits of the issue (I'm the editor, I'm allowed to cheat). Righteous is a jazz & blues label but this is a rock record -- seems they were so good at a live show that the owner just had to sign them. After hearing the album, I can understand why. The McGuires have a catchy pop sensibility, lots of interwoven harmonic vocals, and a great sense of humor. My fave here is the surrealistic "T.V. Party" ("Later on when you realize/TV's been telling you all kinds of lies...We're not going to a TV Party are we?/We're going straight to hell"). I hope this one makes it big time -- though a few of the songs are too risqué for other than home use, there are definite radio hits here. Throw Stevie Nicks off the air and fill the airtime with the McGuires instead. (LP/MG)

MEMBRANES, "Songs of Love and Fury" (Homestead Records, PO Box 570, Rockville Centre, NY 11571-0570): Al FLipside says this is too wimpy. Far be it from me to argue but it does have its interesting moments. This is one of England's 3rd or 4th or 5th Wave punk bands (I've lost track) who probably would be as well known in America as Gang of 4 or Stranglers or XTC if they'd been around for that late 70's era. By that I guess I mean they seem to have their own sound and an endless supply of songs to treat with it. In a way it's somewhat of a coup for Homestead to have signed them and put out their first American release. To any reader of British music weeklies they'll be no strangers, the rest of you might as well give 'em a listen. The vocals are sometimes wimpy but the music usually sounds good and scratchy/skiffly. (LP/SW)

MENTAL ANGUISH, "Hellhole" (\$5 from Harsh Reality Music, PO Box 241661, Memphis, TN 38124-1661): I sometimes think that any damned fool can noodle around for hours with a synthesizer, and the great majority then send the results to me. Chris Phinney, Harsh Reality's main man, stands out well above most of the rest in that he actually makes me want to hear more of his stuff (which may account for the great number of HR products that have been reviewed in past issues of FF). MENTAL ANGUISH is Chris with occasional backing from Pete McLean, and it's a wonderfully ominous trip through layered synthesizers, distorted vocals, and found sounds. Watch out for the title track, a hell for those who hate Smurfs and other forms of Saturday

morning undead -- the birdsongs and squeaky toy
noises drove my dogs into a frenzy. (T/MG)

MORGAN/GRIMALDI, "Songs of the Great Escapist"
[2 from Skate Tapes, c/o Chuck Connor, Sildan
House, Chediston Rd., Wissett, Near Halesworth,
Suffolk, IP19 ONF, ENGLAND): I keep thinking of
Herman's Hermits, not because there is some shared
quality of English perkiness here. This stuff is
very nearly poetry, backed up with a bouncy, jaunty
synthesizer and drum machine soundtrack. Topics
range from the mundane ("Happy Birthday Fiona") to
the surreal ("Wallpaper Love"). Quite pleasant
stuff, soothing rather than exciting. John Grimaldi,
incidentally, died of Multiple Sclerosis, and the
monies from this tape are going to MS research. "No
one escapes from the great escapist..." (T/MG)

JEREMY MORRIS, "Alive" (Jam Records, 3332
Wedgewood Dr., Kalamazoo, MI 49008): The first few
moments of "Alive" set an almost mystical mood with
creative ambient touches that are beautiful to
listen to. But then the songs kick in, and the
listener is left with the empty, disappointed
feeling of having been gypped of something special.
The majority of the music on this release is power
rock/power guitar. Morris' voice is nasal, slightly
strained, and the echo that is constantly used does
nothing to enhance it. For the most part this is an
average release: the songs are tight and
proficiently done, but lack the spark to lift them
out of the ordinary. But in between there are hints
of something more -- the instrumental parts of some
of the songs are appealing and, as mentioned before,
the ambient accents are a nice touch, hinting at
night, wind and stars. If Morris can work on this
and strengthen the other to match his next release
truly will be more alive. (EP/CS)

NORWOOD, demo tape (Another Amethyst Song, 96
McGregor Downs, W. Columbia, SC 29169): Fairly
laid-back Southern rock and roll. Nothing here is
too good, nothing is too bad. The major problem with
this demo, in fact, is the packaging: no song list,
no promotional material, and terrible sound quality.
Without a clue as to who these guys are, the
reviewer has less to be interested in; although any
review is forced to be objective, it isn't forced to
be good. (T/MG)

THE OFFBEATS, "Out of Breath" b/w "Don't Take My
Advice" (St. Valentine Records, PO Box 79116,
Cleveland, OH 44107): These guys are sort of
different. They play hardcore instruments at thrash
speed, and yet they manage to keep things upbeat and
bouncy. It helps that they're actually singing
rather than screaming about offing the politicians
or whatever. I guess you could call this hardcore
pop and not be too far off the mark. The B side, at
over 4 minutes, actually sounds a bit too long; the
quick blast of "Out of Breath", on the other hand,
leaves the listener breathless indeed. (45/MG)

BLAIR PETRIE, "Requested Music" (\$7 CANADIAN
from CLAS, PO Box 86010, North Vancouver, BC V7L
4J5, CANADA): This stuff comes from somewhere beyond
the cutting edge of the avant-garde. Incredibly
enough, all of the pieces here really were
requested, for radio shows or compilation tapes.
Blair plays, well, noise, made up of synthesizers,
fuzz, feedback and a fair bit of screaming. Do not
play this to serenade your best girl over a fine
dinner. Play it to convince your dormitory mates
that they ought to keep their distance as you are a
dangerous freak. (T/MG)

EDDIE RAY PORTER, "When the Morning Falls" (Less
Music c/o Leslie Rule, 3362 21st St., San Francisco,
CA 94110): Ties as one of my pick hits of the issue.

Depending on the reviewer, Eddie's music gets
compared to either Green on Red and Dream Syndicate
or Bruce Springsteen and John Cougar Mellencamp.
Though the music has the same country-influenced
American rock sound I don't think he's as easy to
pigeonhole as all that -- unless the comparisons are
meant to indicate that this stuff is damned good.
The music gets right down to the problems of living
that led to C&W and the blues. My fave is "Daddy's
Cadillac", a tale of fast living in the face of a
hopeless world: "She said 'Baby can you save me from
this life?'/I said 'I can't even save myself'".
Eddie and bassist Rule produced this themselves but
I don't know if they're selling it direct; if you
can't find it in the stores, though, you should
definitely write. (LP/MG)

CHRIS RAE, "Goodbye, Music" (Fang Records, 804
Dryden St., Silver Spring, MD 20901-1822): Hey, I
know a lot of my friends into grunge wouldn't like
this, but I do. And in a better world a guy with
songs this bizarre but still so obviously influenced
by pop, AOR and progressive rock would at least have
a cult following by now. But since Chris basically
doesn't fit in any genre and since the business
aspect even amongst the supposed underground is
still so full of bullshit this might not even be
released unless you, gentle reader, write and demand
a copy for fair remuneration. OK, OK, so there is
one wimpy cut, but any wimpiness overall is
outweighed by sheer inventiveness. You've got to
hear him singing "How I love Mozart/I love Chrissie
Hynde" and "I hate myself, I hate my goddamned self"
all in one song, the title cut. (T/SW)

RIFLE SPORT, "Complex" (Ruthless Records, PO Box
1458, Evanston, IL 60204): Not as good as Steve
Albini thinks they are, but still pretty damned
good. For sure the outstanding cut here is "Box of
Dirt", the live cut. No question that I'm looking
forward to the release of the promised album by
these guys, but for now I'd say the songs aren't as
strong as those of labelmates URGE OVERKILL. For the
record these guys were first put on vinyl by Bob
Mould of HUSKER DU. (EP/SW)

ROOM 291, "The Pink World" (\$3 from Redux
Records, 1085 14th St. #1030, Boulder, CO 80302):
Though five people are involved in the production of
this tape, only two of them appear on three of the
four tracks. The music of ROOM 291 is made up of
various electronic noises and percussion, overlaid
by distorted tape loops and fresh vocals. Minor key
and slow-paced, it seems sort of dark and forbidding
most of the time. "Big Guns" is about the only
social statement here ("satellite missiles in the
dark - it never stops/as long as there's money to be
made...") Only a thirty minute tape but it seems to
drag on longer than that. (T/MG)

NICK RUDD, "Spine Trail" (\$4 from Office Records,
PO Box 2081, Stn. A, Champaign, IL 61820):
Slow-dancing music (which is out of fashion) that
verges on gothic (which is in fashion) on a couple
of cuts including "Science Head" and "Blur". Nick's
music is crafted, played with more concentration
than energy, and it moves smoothly through your
living room rather than crashing in waves over your
furniture. Pleasant but not extraordinary. (T/MG)

SAUSAGE FAILURE, "Transitory Binucleoid Mitosis"
(TCAB Studio, PO Box 884763, San Francisco, CA
94188): This thing just plopped out of the envelope
along with a business card that says "Soundesigner,
James Hill", so I guess it's a solo production.
Although you can hear bells and horns and piano
here, I'd almost bet it's all synthesized -- it has
that sound about it (perhaps some of the horns are
for real, but I have my doubts). Mostly fairly
unassuming stuff, from nearly jazz numbers to

2001-type movie soundtrack noodling. No big deal. I'm afraid. Background music for a relaxed drug trip. (T/MG)

THE SHARKBITES, "Nowhere Fast" (After Hours Records, 300 Prospect Ave., Cleveland, OH 44115): This engaging four-piece (plus occasional trumpet and sax) put out good, solid, poppy rock. From out of the depressed steel area around Youngstown, the Sharkbites don't let anything get in the way of laying down a good backbeat, ripping out a good vocal line, and having a lot of fun. This stuff will make you want to get up and dance, or at least tap your toes if you're busy writing reviews. Nothing sticks in the mind as an ideal song on the first time through, but it's a record to keep coming back to on rainy days for a quick pick-me-up. (LP/MG)

SORRY, "The Way It Is" (Homestead Records, PO Box 570, Rockville Center, NY 11571-0570): Kickass stuff from a band that made it reasonably big on the Boston club circuit, broke up, released this posthumous album, and has now reformed to tour, or so the promo material says. At their best -- that's about half a dozen of the 16 cuts here -- Sorry are exactly the sort of thing I like to hear after fighting traffic: a pulsating heavy bass line, hard-edged drumming and screaming lead guitar tied into one long jam session. I'm talking about songs like "24", "Rise and Fall" and especially "Rumble" here. Other cuts range all over the musical map from pop to hardcore, but in general they stay too innovative to be easily pigeonholed. Compare 'em with the Boston art/punk band of your choice (Salem 66, Volcano Suns...) and you won't be in the wrong ballpark. (LP/MG)

THE SPUDS, "Live With Norman" (Mom's Records, PO Box 2678, Pittsburgh, PA 15230): I don't know much about the Spuds as people. The photo shows three guitars, drums, keyboards, sax and singer, and you can hear them all on this tape. Their music, though, is easily recognized: they're definitely a party band, suitable for fraternities, beaches and so on (but probably not bar mitzvahs). Check out these song titles: "Boogin' With the Bhagwan", "Rasta Mailman", "Party Socks" and "Waterskiing With the Vikings". Can there be any doubt that this is upbeat, hilarious, bouncy music? Not a bit. Also check out the extended ode to an extensive woman, "Her Name Was Thunder". (T/MG)

STEVIE STILETTO, "Food For Flies" (\$7 from KAOS Music Limited, PO Box 9391, Pensacola, FL 32513): Well, the album title may well be apt (think about it). Stiletto and his cohorts are not quite an Aerosmith clone, but it's apparently not for lack of trying. There are a couple of good moments here, though, such as the lyrics to "We Found Johnny Again": "His lack of originality/Affects his personality/So he turns to narcotics and beer...". There's also a kickass cover of "Feelings". But the rest of this stuff is pretty dull. (LP/MG)

SUICIDE, self-titled (Dutch East India, PO Box 570, Rockville Center, NY 11570): This is a reissue of a groundbreaking 1977 Red Star Records release, one of the first critically successful all-synth albums. There's a magical quality to Suicide's music, and cuts like "Cherree" and "Johnny" can get the listener trying to whistle along with the complex rhythms on the first run through the record. Other tracks, like "Rocket U.S.A.", presage later and artier bands. This one, though, was only two guys -- Alan Vega doing the vocals and Martin Rev credited with "Instrument". He did a damned good job, and you can hear echoes of this in groups from Sigur Sigur Sputnik to The Cars. (LP/MG)

TEN TALL MEN, "Nickelbrain" (TTM Productions, PO Box 7813, Berkeley, CA 94707-7813): This three piece (Grandmaster Winthrop Elliot Jordan III on lead guitar & vocals, The Lovely Miss Jane Guskin on bass, and Max playing the drums) kicks ass. Side A blasts out at you with tight fast sound, picking up steam for the Side B assault on your senses, culminating with "Your Time Will Come" ("One day I heard he'd died a quiet death/He's been increasingly dead ever since") and "We All Want Just What We Can't Have" ("Daddy says 'Don't Touch!' they want it all the more"). Definitely meant to make you turn your stereo way up. I hope there's more TTM on the way soon. (EP/MG)

TENTATIVELY A CONVENIENCE & THE BOOED USICIANS, "6 Fingers Crossed Country T.Ore/Tour" (\$6 from Widemouth Tapes, PO Box 382, Baltimore, MD 21203): Subheaded as being records of the "Mad Scientist Didactions" which tent and his crew performed across the land this summer. The Situationists used to do what they called "detournement", using visual images from the mass culture with new captions to make a point. This is sort of audio detournement, making heavy use of tape loops of things from classical music to Broadway musicals as a background to screaming, pounding and other activities in the foreground. tent performs, perhaps not music, but he does perform, and no doubt there was a heavy visual component to all of this in person (in fact one piece here is the soundtrack to a film). But even without the liveness and video, this tape can serve as an exploration of music pushed far beyond its usual limits. On the borderline between industrial, psychotic, SubGenial, and other fringe genres. (T/MG)

TO DAMASCUS, "Succumb" (Ringent Records, PO Box 643, Los Angeles, CA 90069): A powerful and impressive three-piece fronted by Sylvia Juncosa (guitar, vocals, keyboards, songwriting -- with the exception of one cut credited to "Frumious Bandersnatch") that rings some interesting changes upon various rock styles. "Rare Water" is fast-paced with elements of C&W and surf; "Slam Den" is a rock anthem that combines hard drums with blistering guitar work and skittering vocals; "Hearts to Cry" simply cooks. This is another band to watch for the future, probably with national distribution. (LP/MG)

TONE POETS, "Treble" (\$4 from David Mandl, 195 Garfield Pl. #2L, Brooklyn, NY 11215): Tone Poets is really David, a couple of friends, and an assortment of electronic and improvised instruments. Some of this stuff is pretty standard synthesizer ambient noise, but some of it justifies the letter on the back of the liner notes from an irate neighbor. Take "Anything and Everything Must Go" (please) -- sampling of, well, very rude noises. Then there's "Nitrous Oxide", a fair approximation of the auditory effects of the drug without the stupid smile it brings to my face. Intermixed with these annoying (or otherwise) pieces are a couple of radio station IDs calculated to drive listeners to another frequency. Definitely not an easy listening tape. (T/MG)

Various artists, "The Best of Underground America" (\$9.25 from ROIR, 611 Broadway #214, New York, NY 10012): TROUSER PRESS is dead now, but thanks to Reachout International, their legacy lives on. For about ten years starting in 1975 the TP folks were heavily into independent American music. This tape represents their distillation of the best of the thousands of demo tapes, homemade 45's, and shoestring albums that they heard in those years. FF readers will recognize bands like Bunnydrums and Norm Salant; other prime contenders include Erector Set and Algebra Suicide. Two things distinguish this tape from its roots in the indie market. First off,

this stuff is better produced and slicker than 99% of what's out there, and second, it's pretty mainstream. The most bizarre group here is probably The Residents. The result is thus not by any means experimental, but rather sounds like a compilation of things that corporate record producers just happened to overlook. (T/MG)

Various artists, "Dr. Death's Vol. 1" (\$10.48 from C'est La Mort Records, PO Box 91, Baker, LA 70714): This album is an extension of the Dr. Death radio show, which introduces new music into the cultural backwoods of the American south. (Incidentally, the radio show is in syndication -- write if your station would like to carry it). The stuff here is mainly complexly melodic New Wave -- besides my own favorite Throwing Muses there are tracks from Breathless, M-1 Alternative, and Lung Overcoat to name a few. Circle Confusion does turn in a rather more jarring rendition of "Survival" to help vary the lineup a bit. Other bands featured are Rash of Stabbings, The Kite, Pat on the Back, Room Nine, and End Over End. A nice lineup of non-punk new stuff. More releases in the series are planned, and bands are invited to send material. (LP/MG)

Various Artists, "Flipside Video Fanzine Ten" (\$22.50 from PO Box 363, Whittier, CA 90608): This is a VHS video tape, but it's all music, so I couldn't see putting it off in a special section. With the exception of one cut from New York band Big Stick this is all live stuff recorded in Southern California. The technical quality, both video and audio, is excellent (although club lighting often leaves something to be desired for filming), and most of the bands are worth listening to. Check out the stuff from Corrosion of Conformity, Raszebrae, Radwaste and Frightwig (although I found 7 Seconds to be a bit of a disappointment). The final cut, featuring The Grim performing behind a wall of sneering skins seated on the edge of the stage, reminded me eerily of the footage of the Stones at Altamont. (V/MG)

Various Artists, "The New Cleveland Greenlight Sampler" (\$5.75 from Green Light Records & Tapes, PO Box 23121, Euclid, OH 44123): Cleveland has long had a reputation as the birthplace of many fine bands and a listen to this sampler of talent and style does nothing to detract from that. 15 cuts ranging from drawling country laments to fast paced rockers, each and every one of them strong and tightly performed, are presented here by knowns and unknowns alike. Of particular note is an unreleased cut from The Choir -- "If These Are Men" -- a powerful, moving piece from 1969; the lively and infectious "Boy Can I Dance Good" (by The Window); the low key drawling intensity of "Purple Heart" (by Terry Ross); and the political "People With Power" (by Jim Fahenshack -- this is the first song he ever wrote). From start to finish, this is unpretentiously honest music that has a wide range appeal to listeners of all kinds. (T/CS)

Various Artists, "What is Truth?" (Panic USA, PO Box 1696, Skokie, IL 60076): A compilation designed to lull the listener into a false sense of security. It starts out with Eugene Chadbourne performing the title cut, a lovely little anti-authoritarian song, and ends up with an untitled paino composition from Gary Marks. In between there is one of the most excruciating collections of noise and sound that I have ever heard. It's not ambient or precisely industrial, but full of groups with names like Devil Bell Hippies, German Shepherds, Furry Couch and Research Defense Lodge whose main purpose in life seems to be to make annoying noises. It grew on me just a bit but I was still happy when the record ended -- but despite

this, I'll be playing it again, I know. The first edition of 500 copies has lovely handmade manic covers. (LP/MG)

Various Artists, "The Will to Die" (Smash Apathy, PO Box 1216, Fairlawn, NJ 07410): I've got to hand it to New Jersey -- they might have to start labeling their license plates "State of the Fanzine". Not only are the zines cool, but they release comps as well; JERSEY BEAT has done 3 and now SMASH APATHY has its first. All the music on here is pretty raw and ranges from a total noise sans musicality like COED HOMOSEXUAL doing "Fucking Pumpkins" to the psychedelic instrumental of Mitch Cooper doing "Only When the Air is Thick". Other names to be reckoned with are JUVENILE TRUTH, THE NILS, SMERSH, MURPHY'S LAW and ED GEIN'S CAR. My fave cuts are by McSHRED, whose melodic metal cow punk is really well done and I'm ready for a full album of it. This is a must for all compilation lovers. (T/SW)

VIKTIMIZED KARCASS, "Death's Deal" (\$5 from Harsh Reality Music, PO Box 241661, Memphis, TN 38124-1661): To see what makes Chris Phinney tick don't miss the next issue of SPORADIC DROOLINGS which will feature a humorous (I hope) interview. Meanwhile, I can say that anyone into the underground tape network of industrial stuff shouldn't miss this one. The signature tune for VK is now on tape and a real monster it is, using minimal but erratically disturbing drum sounds with plenty of noise and some of the coolest vocals ever. Archetypical rock and roll lyrics of the "rattlesnake and roll" variety that keep alive the trashy ethos handed down from the earliest rock. To be honest, this took longer to sink in than their last tape A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE [FF20]. This is probably because it is more intense, though one cut does almost fool you into thinking it's New Age music. The Age of Kali is about the size of it -- in fact, Dan Simmon's SONG OF KALI makes good reading while listening to this). (T/SW)

THE WALLMEN, "Slackadelics" (\$3 from 7711 Lisa Ln., Syracuse, NY 13212): The name of this tape pretty much says it all: these guys are SubGenius-inspired psychedelic leftovers from another dimension. From the growled vocals of "KindaWow KindaNow" to the gawdawful noise of "Camper", these guys will torture your ears and amuse your brain through careful programming of your foot gland. Dobbs-approved and ready for use. Beware of their venomous covers of famous rock songs, which will addle your taste for sure. The music consists of guitars, fuzz, eels, and disturbing clashes, with the vocals being somewhere between buzzsaw and snore. (T/MG)

THE WARDS, "Armed to the Teeth" (PO Box 3156, Burlington, VT 05402-3156): Garden variety punk rock that conjures up images and a feeling of underground garage, basement and crowded hall shows. The music is ably executed with strength and verve and the vocals are youthfully energetic. (T/CS)

THE WARNING, demo tape (c/o Modern Vision, PO Box 481, Paoli, PA 19301): These guys would be just another "speed-metal hardcore punk band" lost in the crowd were it not for the fact that they are also Christian rockers. They take a somewhat more combative stance than most Christian musicians, with tracks like "Abortion is Murder": "Fill the doctor's pockets full of cash/Throw another baby in the trash/Abortion is murder...". It certainly is odd to hear someone screaming "Jesus Saves" over a kickass guitar line. Technically quite competent but far away from the mainstream of the musical genre, I can't help wondering whether there is any audience at all for this sort of thing. (T/MG)

 WEIRD SUMMER... "Deja Vu" (from Ken Golub, 101 W. Oregon St., Urbana, IL 61801): This REM-ish band is anchored by the acoustic guitar work of Bobbi Kai and the bass line put out by Rick Schattnick. Bobbi again sings the lead vocals with backing from the rest of the bunch. Nothing here stands out as an outright hit, but the lead track on side B -- "A Knight These Days", featuring a couple of extra hands -- has potential. WS is working towards developing a local sound for the Champaign-Urbana area, and though they're not there yet, they're on the way. Could be big news in the future. (T/MG)

THE WOMBATS, "Mud Puddles" (Homestead Records, PO Box 570, Rockville Centre, NY 11571-0570): There is only one thing on this EP that isn't cool, and that is the fact that the very first cut is the best one. But "Fine Line"-- man, let me tell you if they were all this good this would be in the top five of '86, no problem. Maybe it hearkens back to their sound on "Zontar Must Die", an LP from a few years back that is the last vinyl they have out. I don't know, but I do know that both the liner notes and the reviews in FORCED EXPOSURE mention that the total garage attack ala THE NOMADS is absent here, and a more skewed pop ambience is definitely present. But unlike the last pop offering on Homestead that I had to slag (the Reactions), there are no wimpy moments to the extent of cringing here. No, this is real good stuff, and you can believe I'll be making an effort to get "Zontar" in the near future. (EP/SW)

MUSICAL NOTES:

* THE AMETHYST GROUP (96 McGregor Downs, W. Columbia, SC 29169) has a bunch of demo tapes, a talent search, and recording agent services and publications available to those trying to break into the music world. Write for details.

* BLACKBERRY WAY RECORDS (606 13th Ave. SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414) promises new releases from The Ohs and Tom Bright in the near future. The previous releases from both these folks were a lot of fun, and we hope to bring you the whole scoop next issue, or whenever they send us promo copies.

* GGE RECORDS (PO Box 5088, Kent, OH 44240) have a free catalog available listing their tape-only releases. Experimental, humor, spoken-word, industrial.

* HARSH REALITY MUSIC (PO Box 241661, Memphis, TN 38124-1661) has a new catalog out, about half of which was written by FF staffers. You can probably get a copy for an SASE.

* HEARTS OF SPACE (PO Box 31321, San Francisco, CA 94131) has an extensive catalog of what they call "Spacemusic" and what everyone else calls New Age Music. No price, send 'em some stamps.

* YAZOO RECORDS (245 Waverly Place, New York, NY 10014) is an outfit that re-issues old blues, jazz and acoustic music. If that's your bag, write for their catalog.

* ZBS CASSETTE ADVENTURES (RR#1 Box 1201, Fort Edward, NY 12828) has a nice catalog out listing their humorous and adventurous radio stories. Full stereo, good stuff, I recommend it. You can probably get a copy of the catalog for asking.

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to editors & networkers: feel free to print, copy or circulate any of encl. material.

TESTING Testing Testing

President Reagan has sounded the alarm and set the example. If we don't crack down on drug use, we will surely crack up.

We must mobilize the most reprehensive program for universal drug testing.

Since in this country we are not accustomed to public pissoirs, we will have to start with a massive program to change public sensitivity.

If we stick to the clinical term 'urinate,' we will never get the easy response necessary for mass urinalysis, and, I fear, 'urinalysis' is far too suggestive of a psychiatric encounter.

The most inoffensive terminology is probably 'passing water,' but this leaves the way open for those conditioned to literal interpretations to try passing off some watered down substitute.

We could go for 'pee,' but p's could lead to q's and other alphabetical or vegetarian complications.

We could could go with the more musical 'tinkle,' but cities might be reluctant to take a lead that would publicize them as "Tinkle Town, USA."

Although some prefer 'to take a leak,' if there are reporters around, today's leak will be tomorrow's headline.

We could fall back on 'wee-wee,' but for the French-blooded, it would come out as 'oui, oui,' which would lead to 'voila' and 'oohlahlah,' the very last thing we want interjected into drug testing.

Although it is often considered vulgar, I think we simply have to get right down to 'taking a piss.'

We would start with sports. Instead of starting hockey with a face-off, we should start with a piss-off. Instead of flipping a coin to determine fairness, we could have an open piss-off that would give the necessary assurance that both sides are drug-free. Instead of "The Star Spangled Banner," we could begin all games with some specially decomposed music by The Pistons, The Peebuddies or Renal Relief.

Then we will naturally have to have a transcontinental piss-off or Piss across America.

Instead of taking attendance in the traditional way, every schoolday will start with students passing in to piss. No piss, no pass. Older students may have trouble passing (or pissing), but if we can get school down to the level of infants, we can raise a generation with no passing or pissing problems.

In such a grave national crisis we simply cannot afford the luxury of being concerned about all those who will get pissed off or even pissed on.

Gene Lehman 8/27/96

PROCLAMATION!

EMPEROR NORTON

Joshua Norton, or as he preferred to be called, Norton I, proclaimed himself Emperor of the United States and Protector of Mexico in 1859.

Although a pauper, he was fed free in San Francisco's best restaurants.

Although a madman, he had all his state proclamations published in San Francisco's newspapers.

While rational reformers elsewhere failed to crack the national bank monopoly with alternate currency plans, Norton I had his own private currency accepted throughout San Francisco.

When the Vigilantes decided to have a pogrom against the Chinese, and sane men would have tried to stop them, Norton I did nothing but stand in the street, head bowed, praying. The Vigilantes dispersed.

"When the proper man does nothing (wu-wei), his thought is felt ten thousand miles."
--Lao Tse

Although a fool, Norton I wrote letters which were seriously considered by Abraham Lincoln and Queen Victoria.

"You must take the bull by the tail and look the facts in the face."
--W.C. Fields

Although a charlatan, Norton I was so beloved that 30,000 people turned out for his funeral in 1880.

"Everybody understands Mickey Mouse. Few understand Hermann Hesse. Hardly anybody understands Einstein. And nobody understands Emperor Norton."
--Malaclypse the Younger, K.S.C.

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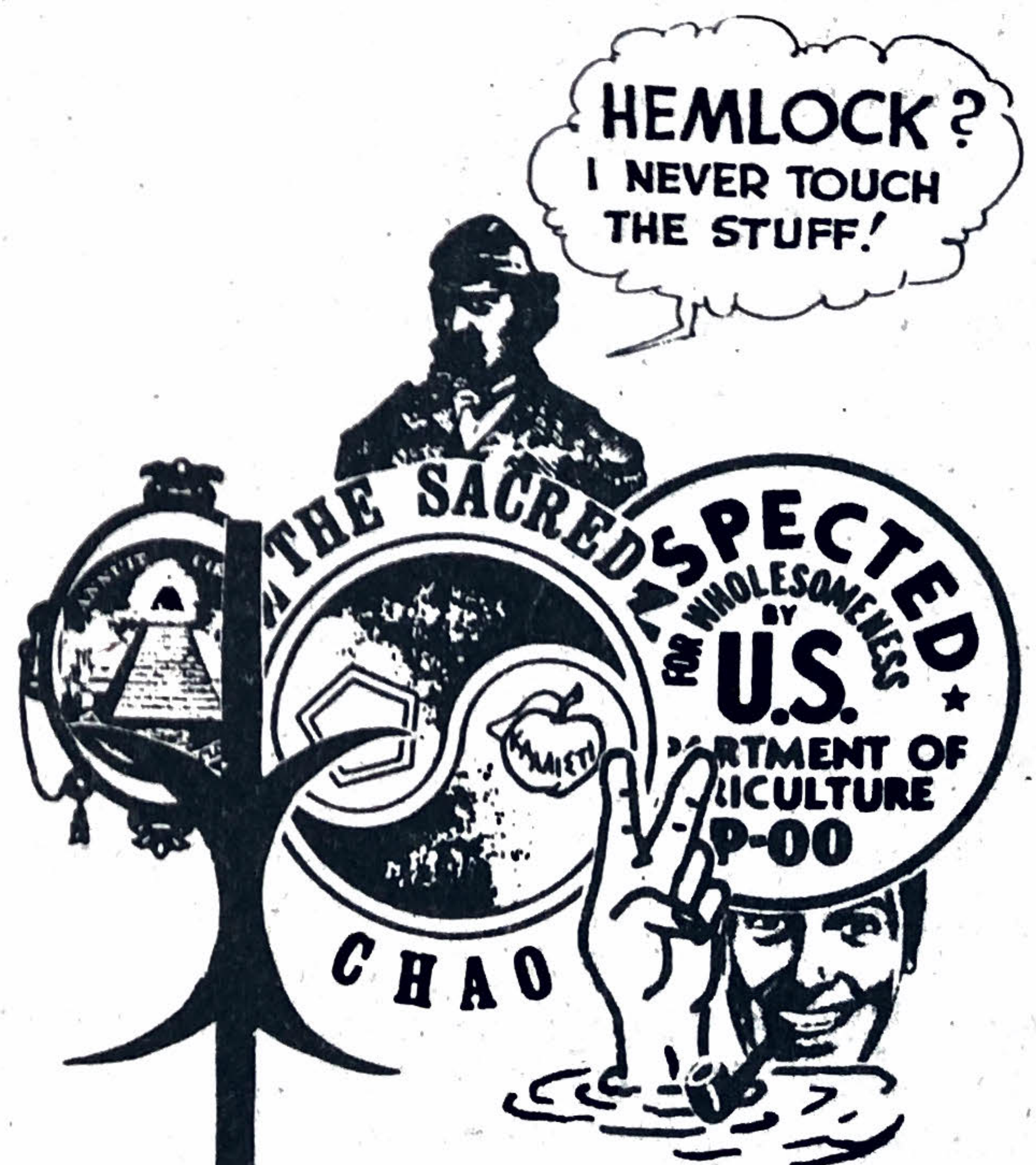
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